

Restaurants, takeaways and food outlets must improve

500 FOOD PLACES NOT RATED 'GOOD'

BY JACK AVERTY

A THIRD of food outlets in Walsall still do not have a 'good' 'hygiene rating, latest figures show.

More than 500 takeaways, restaurants and other food outlets in the borough are rated less than a four out of five, the benchmark for 'good' set by the Food Standards Agency.

Among these are six with the basement rating of zero, meaning urgent improvement is necessary. A total of 120 are rated at one, meaning major improvement is necessary, while 102 have a rating of two, meaning improvement is needed.

The remaining 295 are rated as a three and considered 'generally satisfactory', but still not classed as having good hygiene.

Of the 1,608 food places there were 400 with a rating of 4 (good) and 685 with a rating of 5 (very good).

Among those with zero ratings include Ba Ba Reeba on Goodall Street, Food Hut on Stafford Street and Pizza Cottage on Caldmore Road. The latter was forced to be shut down temporarily after a mice infestation was found. Also Lloyds Cafe in Darlaston, Chicken.com on Stafford Street (which was recently inspected with a new rating to be published soon) and R B Foods Ltd on Milton Street.

Pleased

However the figures show there has been some improvement in the borough. Back in August, Walsall had nine outlets rated as zero and 152 as one. In August 2015 there were 19 businesses rated as zero.

Walsall Council said it was 'pleased' to see the improving figures and praised the impact of its new scheme tackling the hygiene standards.

David Eltrington, regulatory services manager at the council said: "We are pleased to see the overall performance of food hygiene improving in Walsall. Our 'Health Switch Award' in particular is succeeding in encouraging take-away businesses to not only improve their rating but to also provide healthier meal options to their customers.

"We inspect all premises in the borough at regular intervals to ensure compliance with food hygiene standards. Our Environmental Health team work with businesses to help them comply with food regulations which in turn should help them improve their food hygiene rating score.

"Our staff are also rigorous in taking appropriate action towards those who place public health at risk."

PUBLIC PROTEST OVER THREAT TO POST OFFICE



Protesting outside the post office, residents and union members, with, front, David Winnick MP, and representative of the CWU Sue Trehearne

RESIDENTS in Willenhall have taken to the streets to protest outside the potential closure of their post office.

The event, organised by the Communication Workers Union (CWU), saw politicians and residents alike protest outside the outlet in John Street.

Concerns have been raised that the post office, because of its crown status, will be privatised and closed, instead replaced by a single counter in a shop. This could also lead to job losses. Walsall councillor Diane Coughlan was one of those demonstrating outside the

premises on Saturday morning. She said: "It was a well-supported protest. I had put a call out on Facebook for people to come down and they did. Just by being there you could see how well used it is as a post office with people always coming in and out.

"What they want to do is close quite a lot of crown offices and privatise them. This Willenhall one could be moved to a shop but that is not acceptable. They will say it is a post office but it will not be, it will be one counter.

A public meeting is in the process of being set up, with Councillor Coughlan saying she

will ask representatives from the Post Office to attend and answer questions. Around 20 people attended Saturday's event.

Workers at the post office took industrial action over the Christmas period due to the ongoing row. Members of the CWU have accused Post Office bosses of refusing to get into serious negotiations with them over their concerns of over job losses, the closure of a final salary pension scheme and the franchising of Crown Post Offices.

The franchising of Crown Post Offices could also affect the Darwell Street site in Walsall.

APPEAL

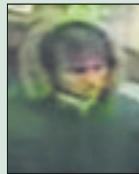
Woman shot in leg during raid on store

A SHOP assistant was shot in the leg during a terrifying raid on a convenience store in Walsall prompting a CCTV appeal.

CCTV footage has been released as police try to trace the suspected raider in a fresh bid for information. A man walked into the Mount Street Store, in Caldmore, and is seen in footage carrying a bag before looking around the shop.

He started chatting to the cashier but left without buying anything, say police. Later he walked back into the shop with his face covered, brandishing what is believed to be a hand-held gas powered ball bearing gun. He forced the cashier behind the desk before firing the gun into her leg causing minor injuries.

Items were stolen in the raid on December 17. Anyone with information is asked to contact Det Con Martin Beebee by emailing m.beebee@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



The CCTV image

DEMOLITION

Clean-up begins as pub faces bulldozers

PREPARATION work is under way before a disused pub is torn down. The Boat, on Bentley Road South, Darlaston, which has been a target for arsonists and vandals since its closure in 2006, will be brought down next week.

The pub was hugely popular once upon a time, but according to Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston area, bringing it down is long overdue.

He said: "The Boat pub, a frequent haunt for fire-starters is due to be reduced to rubble. It is such a shame because The Boat used to be hugely popular in the area and because of the decline in the pub trade generally it became vacant. But it has taken too long to happen. It is time for a change and time to move on."



Workers on the pub site

INSIDE

BUCKETFUL OF MONSTER FUN



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Birdwatch results see waxwings take off



Waxwings, from Scandinavia

SIGHTINGS of waxwings and robins are on the up in the gardens of the West Midlands – the nation's largest garden wildlife survey has revealed.

But the number of blue tits visiting the region is on the decline, according to the findings of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. More than 90,000 people in the Midlands, and close to half a million people across the UK, took part in the 38th birdwatch event recently.

In total more than eight million birds were counted nationwide, with the rise in the number of waxwings in the West

Midlands particularly noticeable as these birds only flock to UK gardens in winter once every seven to eight years when the berry crop fails in their native Scandinavia.

The waxwings were seen in around 15 times more Midlands gardens in 2017 compared to previous years.

There was also good news for robins, with the average number seen visiting gardens at its highest level since 1986.

In the Midlands, robins were up from eighth to seventh place in the top 10 recorded birds from last year. However

there was a decrease in the numbers of blue tits, great tits and coal tits.

The survey highlighted a downturn in the recorded sightings of blue tits, dropping 11 per cent, great tits, falling 10 per cent, and coal tits, down 14 per cent, on last year's figures.

In the Midlands, the blue tit fell from second to fifth place in the top ten.

The nationwide top 10 is as follows: 1) House Sparrow; 2) starling; 3) blackbird; 4) blue tit; 5) wood pigeon; 6) goldfinch; 7) robin; 8) great tit; 9) chaffinch; 10) long-tailed tit.

Eyesore pub may be transformed into flats

AN eyesore pub which has been targeted by vandals and travellers could be turned into flats under new plans.

The Eagle, on Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich, is the subject of a planning application by SEP properties that would see the site transformed into 17 flats.

In November, travellers set up camp outside the pub, which was closed in 2007 after a man was shot.

Mr Winnick, the MP for Walsall North, has been trying to get the site along with that of the Leathern Bottle, on the same estate, cleared for a number of years and was promised earlier this month by owners that the clean-up process was under way.

Prosecution cases against the owners of the Eagle and the Leathern Bottle pubs were being prepared by Walsall Council, forcing them to take responsibility for the eyesore sites.

The Leathern Bottle, which was also a target for vandals for a number of years, was the subject of a planning application to transform the site into a complex of shops, homes and another drinking establishment back in 2012, however nothing came of that.

Disgraceful

Mr Winnick has said that the prosecution is 'very much' set to go ahead, and said that he hoped the council's planning committee looked at this application as soon as possible. He said: "I have received assurances from the owners in recent weeks that clean-up work would be carried out but I still maintain that it is downright disgraceful the way they have approached looking after this land.

"The prosecution case is very much still being prepared and I intend to take the matter up in the House of Commons if the clean-up doesn't go ahead as planned."

News that the site could soon be redeveloped was welcomed by ward councillor Bradley Allen. Councillor Allen, who represents Bloxwich West, said: "This is great news, something that our councillors for Bloxwich West would certainly welcome. The site has had its share of trouble over the years, residents have relayed to us on numerous occasions how unhappy they are with the state it is in."

From dance to romance for couple



Eddie and Jean Allwood, married for 60 years

A DEVOTED Walsall couple have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Eddie and Jean Allwood, both aged 80, tied the knot at St Stephen's Church, Willenhall, on March 23, 1957.

The couple from Castle Street, in Darlaston, first met at a Holy Rosary dance in Wolverhampton in 1955. Mr Allwood said: "It was love at first sight."

He said that 'give and take' was



The happy couple seen on their wedding day

the key to their marriage's success. Mr Allwood was on national service when the couple met, while Mrs Allwood was working for a lock company.

The Darlaston couple have five children – Lorraine 59, Stewart 56, Louise 52, Darren 50 and Earl 45, as well as nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mrs Allwood said she was impressed when she first met Eddie.

She said: "We have strong family bonds and we've enjoyed a long happy life together.

"We've been on lots of holidays – our favourite would have to be Benidorm in the winter."

The couple marked the occasion by having a special meal with their family.

They will also be heading for a holiday in Weston, paid for by their children.

Nursery in 'inadequate' rating after ofsted visit

CHILDREN'S safety was 'significantly compromised' by staff at a Walsall nursery, as Ofsted report has claimed.

Staff at the Little Explorers Day Nursery in Foley Road East, Streetly, did not follow safety procedures on day outings, didn't properly provide first-aid treatment after accidents and left a child on its own in a room for several minutes.

Inspectors gave the nursery, which has 59 children on its roll, an 'inadequate' rating.

A report put together after an inspection on March 14 reads: "Children's welfare is significantly compromised because of poor safety practice. In addition, on the day of the inspection, a child had an accident and staff did not follow the nursery's procedure for dealing with accidents."

"For example, staff did not check the child diligently, provide first aid-treatment or record the accident."

The nursery was rated inadequate in two out of four areas, effectiveness of leadership and personal development, behaviour and welfare.

Inspectors rated it as 'requires improvement' in terms of quality of teaching and outcomes for children.

Nursery manager Karen McWhinnie said: "We accept that there are elements we need to improve upon and we have proactively started implementing a comprehensive improvement plan. However, we are in the process of appealing the decision by Ofsted as we do not believe the report is an accurate reflection of the provision we provide."

Dance studio scheme set out

A FORMER restaurant could be turned into a dance studio in Walsall. Plans to change the building in Town Hill into a studio with 'world class facilities' have been submitted to Walsall Council.

Proposals to develop the building into a nursery were previously accepted but it never came into fruition. Those behind the plans hope to work with local schools introduce dance as a mental and physical workout.

A design studio will also be run from the site to create bespoke dance wear.

The application reads: "The dance fitness market is growing and currently there are very few venues for the sole purpose of dance. We plan on using the venue for freelance dance teachers to be able to teach one-to-one and group lessons in world class facilities."

Stash of jewellery and coins stolen

COMMEMORATIVE coins and jewellery were stolen in a burglary in Walsall.

Among the haul were four commemorative silver Winston Churchill coins dated 1971, and two 22ct gold wedding bands, taken during the break-in on March 10 in the Delves area.

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'Record rail investment' to benefit businesses

HUNDREDS of businesses in the West Midlands are set to be handed a boost after a major investment by rail groups. More than 340 of the region's firms will see investment come in from London Midland and Network Rail, who are working to deliver a record £50 billion spend on railways across the country.

The move has been described as a 'record investment' in the country's rail system and chiefs said it will see 'more trains running to more places, more often'. Railways bosses said the investment will support jobs, growth and drive development, regeneration and unlock housing supply in the West Midlands.

Martin Frobisher, route managing director at Network Rail said: "As part of delivering record investment in the railway, Network Rail is supporting over 12,000 jobs across the West Midlands and spending money with over 340 local businesses.

"The railway is vital to economic growth. That's why Network Rail is spending £100 million every week in Britain on our Railway Upgrade Plan. On the West Coast main line route, including the West Midlands, we are spending £1.9 billion annually to provide a safe, reliable railway."

For rail users, new stations in Bromsgrove, Stratford Upon Avon Parkway, Coventry Arena and Bermuda Park have been amongst the benefits.

Every week in Britain, £100 million is spent by Network Rail on improving the railway system.

Talented duo cut it fine to reach final

TWO talented Walsall College hairdressing students have reached the final of a national competition. Francesco Group's Spotlight competition aims to encourage budding young hairdressers to showcase their talent.



The students

To get a place in the final, held on Monday in Birmingham, students had to submit photographic entries of their commercial looks.

Francesco Group received hundreds of entries and only 15, including Level 3 students, Jessica Hargreaves and Deimante Berzanskite from Walsall College, were chosen to go through.

During the final, contestants will have one hour to style their models with a commercial cut and colour, before a panel of judges mark their efforts on imagination, creativity and talent.

College head of curriculum for hairdressing, Amanda Richards said: "Having two of our students make it through to represent the college in the final is a fantastic achievement."

Pricey's right on target as team boss



Katie Price, ready for the kick-off

FORMER glamour model Katie Price has spoken ahead of taking up role of manager for a charity football match at Walsall FC's Bescot Stadium.

Katie has warned fellow match boss Shayne Ward and his team to not 'underestimate the Pricey' ahead of the game on May 13.

It will raise money for Compton Hospice and Smile for Joel - set up in memory of 19-year-old Joel Richards from Wednesbury, who was killed in the horror attack in Sousse in 2015.

His uncle Adrian and grandfather Patrick, were also among 30 Brit-

ish tourists murdered - while Joel's younger brother Owen survived.

She said: "At first I was unaware of Smile for Joel - but once I read up on the background of the story, I simply had to be involved. Quite simply, I want to remind the players of why we are all here participating for such a great cause. Hopefully just being in the changing rooms will keep the team on their toes!"

Katie will be managing the Smiling Saddlers at the match, while Shayne will be with the Compton Wolves.

She continued: "All I can say to

Shane and his team is don't underestimate the Pricey! I'm going heavy up front and hoping it'll be enough to get a result."

Recently Katie's rise to fame saw her take part in the third series of I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! and she is now a regular panellist on Loose Women.

Tickets are available from www.etickeing.co.uk/walsallfc and cost £10 for adults, £5 for children. VIP packages are also available for £35 or on 01922 651416 between 9.15am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Chief says: We won't rehire £1k-a-day boss

A CONTROVERSIAL £1,000-a-day interim director is poised to leave Walsall Council when her contract expires, the cash-strapped authority's leader says.

Councillor Sean Coughlan, the Labour leader of the council, also said Julie Alderson, the interim director for change and governance at the authority, will not be applying for the soon-to-be vacant chief executive role.

Ms Alderson arrived amid a storm last year with opposition councillors and unions furious at her appointment and £200,000 salary for 12 months' work, when the council was making severe cutbacks and axing hundreds of staff.

With Paul Sheehan, the council's current chief executive, announcing his intention to retire, Ms Alderson would be free to apply for the authority's top job when it begins its search.

However Councillor Coughlan has ruled this out.

When asked by the prospect of Ms Alderson taking the role he said: "No, Julie Alderson has been brought in to do a specific role for us and she will be leaving us at the end of her contract."

Vacant

Her contract is due to expire in November this year and it is unknown at this stage if the council would look to replace her. The position had been vacant for a little while before she took the role, with Councillor Coughlan insisting the council could not soldier on anymore without someone taking the role.

Councillor Mike Bird, the opposition leader in Walsall, branded Ms Alderson's appointment as 'obscene' at the time.

He said: "My position on Ms Alderson remains the same. There are people internally that can do the job she is doing, I did not agree with her appointment at the time."

The exact details of Ms Alderson's contract have never been disclosed, however it is believed she earns between £800 and £1,000 a day for four days work each week.

At the time of her appointment, Walsall Council needed to find £86m of savings by 2020 and was threatening to close every library in the borough bar one, cease funding to the New Art Gallery and relocate the leather museum.

Walsall Council stated: "The post taken up by Julie Alderson is a year-long interim role, which will be reviewed in November 2017."

Author Ian shares roaring success



Top children's author Ian Whybrow meets pupils Isabel Ward, aged six, and Kyle Round, seven

EXCITED children at two Walsall schools got the chance to meet a famous children's author when he popped in for a visit.

Prolific author Ian Whybrow visited Walsall Wood Primary and Pinfold Primary schools where he presented interactive picture book sessions centred on the Harry and the Dinosaurs series.

The visits were organised by Walsall Schools Library Support Service with the aim of making

the children aware of the importance of reading and sharing books and to improve literacy, especially amongst reluctant readers.

Ian is behind children's books, which have gone on to become TV shows, including Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs, The Tickle Book and Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School.

He said: "My aim is to encourage mucking about with language

and coming at things from interesting angles." During his visit to Walsall Wood Primary, the author covered the whole age-range with two separate sessions and an opportunity to get books signed at the end of each session.

Vicki Hardy, reading recovery teacher leader at Walsall Wood Primary said: "The children had read some of Ian's books for World Book Day, so they had plenty of questions for him!"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police appeal for bike information

STAFFORDSHIRE police is appealing for information after a garage was raided and two mountain bikes stolen.

The force is keen to locate the two men connected to the incident in Cheshlyn Hay.

It took place just after 8pm on the evening of Thursday, March 9, when the two men broke into a secure house garage in Spring Meadow by snapping the lock.

One bike is blue and black while the second is black and yellow.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Police said: "Anyone who can help is asked to contact PC Pete Clarke on 101."

Plan for civilians comes under fire

THE region's highest ranking police officer has hit out at suggestions civilians could be allowed to become chief constables in a major shake-up.

A report in a national newspaper said business leaders, army veterans and senior civil servants could be invited to become chief constables, under Government plans.

Forces are currently run by police officers who have risen through the ranks. The West Midlands chief constable at West Midlands Police, Dave Thompson, referred to the terror attack in Westminster and subsequent police raids in Birmingham and stressed experience of policing was vital.

Ch Con Thompson said on Twitter: "After the last few days one would think this unthinkable."

Affordable homes given green light

PLANS to build 23 homes in Darlaston have been approved. Walsall Housing Group has had its application for eight houses and 15 flats for land at St Lawrence Way approved by Walsall Council planning chiefs.

All the homes will be affordable housing for rent. The housing group said: "The houses have been designed in a traditional style incorporating facing brickwork with concrete interlocking tiles to the roof."

Two hurt in crash near to ring road

TWO people were taken to hospital following a crash near Walsall's ring road.

A woman in her 50s was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital with back and rib pain following the crash at around 6pm on Thursday between two cars in Gillity Avenue, at the junction with A4148 Broadway North.

Another person was also taken to hospital.

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Tourism sector being hit hard

IT'S tough going in the tourism and hospitality business in the West Midlands at the moment, according to a new report. Rising inflation hitting household spending and risks over Brexit are thought to be behind the uncertain outlook.

Latest figures suggest one in three operators in the local tourism industry has an above average risk of insolvency – the highest figure for any UK region. The statistics form part of insolvency and restructuring body R3's monthly sector tracking report.

However, the construction sector is among the most stable in the UK.

Region's brews part of range

A PAIR of Black Country breweries are among local suppliers who will have their products sold at Midcounties Co-operative food shops in the West Midlands. The retailer operates 43 shops in the region and is to offer more than 70 new products from 25 drinks producers.

The local beers, ciders and ales include drinks produced in the Midlands, with bottled beers from Sadler's Ales in Lye and Holden's Brewery at Woodseton. Bewdley Brewery in Worcestershire is also featured in the Best of Our Counties range.

Declutter call to help charity

NEARLY a third of people in the West Midlands feel guilty about the amount of money spent on shopping trips, according to the British Heart Foundation in its Spring Clear Out campaign.

In a survey of more than 2,000 UK adults, secrets across the area were revealed, with men and women hanging onto an average of six items each that no longer fit. The BHF have released the statistics to encourage everyone to declutter and donate unwanted items to their local BHF shop.

Crews fired up for learning at college

FIREFIGHTERS have gone back to school to brush up their knowledge of the health and social care in order to help vulnerable people.

A total of 17 staff from fire stations in Wolverhampton, Fallings Park and West Bromwich have learnt about infection control, mental health conditions, safeguarding, and equality and diversity so they can respond to certain non-emergency calls.

They have been taught by tutors from City of Wolverhampton College.

Mothers' messages

MORE than a thousand people descended on Drayton Manor Park to mark Mother's Day and achieve a Guinness world record in the process.

A total of 1,139 people wrote heartfelt 'messages to mum', on a giant cork board, breaking the record for the most contributions to a bulletin board.

Potholes: How you stand legally if you need to go for compensation

COUNCILS across the Black Country and Staffordshire are paying out tens of thousands of pounds in compensation as motorists pay the price for the region's potholed roads. Andy Shaw, partner in the Personal Injury team at Higgs & Sons, sets out the legal position for motorists.

Under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 the authority has a duty to maintain the highway. In considering whether the Highways Authority has breached its duty, the courts will consider

- The character of the highway, and the traffic which would reasonably be expected to use it
- The standard of maintenance appropriate, taking into consideration the type of traffic which might use it
- The state of repair in which a reasonable person would expect to find the highway

d) Whether the highway authority knew or could reasonably have known that the condition of the part of the highway was dangerous

To succeed in a claim for damages for repairs costs or personal injury, a person must prove the highway was in such a condition that it was dangerous to traffic or pedestrians, that the condition was created by the failure to maintain the highway and the injury or damage resulted from such a failure. Whether a pothole is dangerous is open to judicial interpretation.

The court will consider the size of the defect and where it was located.

If the claimant is able to prove that the pothole was dangerous, the burden falls on the defendant to prove that they have a defence under Section 58 Highways Act 1980.

If the local authority can prove that they had a reasonable system of inspection and maintenance, they will establish a defence and any claim for damage or personal injury will fail.

Claims for damage are not straightforward and can be difficult to win, particularly if the Local Authority have an adequate inspection and maintenance policy. The burden is on the person making the claim to prove their case.

Anyone wishing to take action should get evidence – photographs ideally taken with a ruler showing the size and nature of the pothole are essential. Report the pothole. A failure by the local authority to repair the defect promptly may help your case.

Also, contact a solicitor or your insurance company.

Hole lot of problems



Village problems – Mark Keegan sent pictures of potholes in Station Road, Common Road and Giggety Lane, just some of the many in Wombourne



Andrew Duff took this picture of Wergs Hall Road in Wolverhampton

Twitter picture of pothole in Carlisle Road from @SteveCannock

D J Baker took this picture in Buchanan Avenue, Walsall

Nick Hodgkinson has nominated the A491 through Kingswinford

WITH increasing anger over the state of our roads and councils spending tens of thousands in compensation to drivers, we asked readers to highlight some of the worst potholes in our region.

And we have been overwhelmed by the response with some shocking pictures arriving of small craters in our road network.

A damning report last week revealed that some £1.25 billion is needed to get roads in the West Midlands back into a reasonable condition with one in six needing to be repaired or even facing closure within the next five years. The Annual Local Author-



ity Road Maintenance survey blamed an ageing network, decades of underfunding, increased traffic and wetter winters for the problems.

The Chronicle also revealed last week that some £270,000 has been paid out in compensation to drivers over the last four years by Staffordshire County Council alone.

Given the reports we have received from readers across the whole of Staffordshire and the Black Country, our crumbling roads are peppered

with potholes. Nick Hodgkinson sent pictures from a stretch of the A491 which he said was badly damaged 'along its whole length between the Wall Heath island through Kingswinford, where it is particularly bad, then out into Wordley and Ambleside.'

Mark Keegan highlighted potholes in Station Road, Common Road and Giggety Lane in Wombourne. He said: "The ones with the drains are quite dangerous for cyclists."

Andrew Duffy sent in a picture of a wide pothole in Wergs Hall Road in Wolverhampton and even dropped a newspaper in to illustrate the size.

Another crater was sent to us on Twitter showing a pothole in Carlisle Road on the Longford Estate in Cannock. While reader Tracy Taylor

flagged up problems in Broad Lane, Bloxwich.

Neil Sheldon, of Halesowen, contacted us to say: "In my job as a Trainer Assessor I now travel all over the West Midlands and I can testify that I have never seen the road network in such a bad condition."

The Chronicle wants to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils and we need your help. If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes please let us know. You can email details of the road, preferably with a picture, your name and any comments you would like to make to Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk Or drop us a line at Editorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

No cameras despite fear on speeding at blackspot

SAFETY measures are to be added to an accident blackspot – but campaigners have been told there will be no speed cameras.

Flashing speed signs and road markings will be added to the A34 Birmingham Road, Great Barr, in an effort to make drivers slow down.

Hundreds of people living along the main dual carriageway, which leads to the M6, signed a petition calling for safety measures following a succession of serious crashes, including three fatalities. Sandwell Council has agreed to add new signage and markings on the stretch but has said cameras cannot be added at the moment.

Bosses said a project to identify roads in need of speed cameras was currently being run by Birmingham and Solihull councils, but it was expected to be more than a year before it is announced which roads will get the safety measure.

Schoolchildren have joined the campaign over recent months, putting up banners at the roadside pleading with drivers to comply with the speed limit.

And Great Barr councillor Jon Hunt insisted the only way to make drivers slow down was by putting up speed cameras.

He said: "Councils need to take seriously the issues on the A34 and the need for speed cameras. A minority of people abuse the speed limit and I do think we need speed cameras."

A council report said: "A new project is currently being led by Birmingham and Solihull local authorities to re-introduce speed cameras."

New ride off to soaring success

IT'S the new ride that bosses at Drayton Manor Park hope will be a soa-

way success. Judging by the smiles on faces both young and old, the new James and the Red Balloon ride at Thomas Land will certainly be a hit. Hundreds of guests descended on the Midlands theme park for the launch of the new ride at the weekend, which included speeches from Thomas and Friends character Sir Topham Hatt and the theme park's CEO Colin Bryan.

Although not one of the bigger rides at Thomas Land, the new attraction is suitable for children of all ages. Small hot air balloon carriages carrying up to three people rise into the air and back down repetitively, and the ride was in much demand during its opening day in operation.

James Arthur ready for arena date

BRITISH singer-songwriter James Arthur is to play an arena show in Birmingham on his next UK tour.

He will be visiting the Genting Arena at the National Exhibition Centre on November 25. Tickets go on sale tomorrow at 9am.

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Museum flying high for Easter

A MUSEUM in West Bromwich is holding a bird week. Activities including trails, quizzes and crafts over the Easter break, on April 11, 12 and 13, from 11am to 3pm at the house in Oak Road.

Birds of prey can be seen between 11.30am and 2pm on Tuesday 11.

Oak House will be open between 1pm and 5pm on Easter Sunday, with Easter-themed trails and crafts.

A family fun day takes place on Easter Monday, from 11am to 3pm, including children's entertainment with Ron Popple and a bouncy castle.

£2m care service opens for adults

A MULTI-MILLION pound supported living scheme for adults with learning disabilities has opened in Walsall.

The £2 million scheme was brought to the borough by Oldbury-based Select Lifestyles Limited, creating more than 30 jobs. The agency offers supported living, residential and day services for adults with learning disabilities.

Les Trumpeter, general manager at Select Lifestyles, said: "We are delighted to bring another building back into use with a high specification finish for our residents."

Further delay on housing decision

A DECISION on who is responsible for contaminated land on a Walsall housing estate has been pushed back again.

The dispute between Walsall Council and Jim 2 Limited over who is to blame for Stonegate housing estate in Short Heath being built on contaminated land at the site of the former Willenhall Gasworks has been ongoing for 10 years. MP David Winnick has been fighting for a resolution, and it was moved back to today, Thursday.

Rambling free in the hills and valley

IN the first of their new summer programme of monthly midweek walks the Walsall Group of the Ramblers is today, Thursday, heading to Asterton in Shropshire for a 9.5 mile circular walk. 'Views of Shropshire' is a valley, fields and ridge walk, at Long Mynd.

Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leaders on 07954 396 032.

More information about the Walsall Group is available on The Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk/walsall

Forum due at centre

A COMMUNITY meeting will be held in Walsall next month. The High Heath and Shelfield forum will be held on April 4 at 7.30pm. It will take place at the Autumn Close Community Centre. In attendance will be whg and local councillors. Everyone is welcome and entrance is free.

£3.5m owed to council as 12,000 in arrears

CASH-STRAPPED Walsall Council is owed more than £3.5 million in council tax arrears – from a single year.

The authority, which is cutting services and staff as it attempts to find £86m of savings by 2020, is owed the money by more than 12,000 people.

A total of £3.73m is owed by 12,450 Walsall residents for 2015/2016 – an average of nearly £300 each. And increases are on the way, as Council Tax payments rise by 4.99 per cent between April this year and 2020.

Former council leader Mike Bird said the figures were a 'sign of the times', although he said some people under-appreciated council services. He said: "This is indicative of people struggling to pay their bills, in particular council tax. Usually our collection rates are around 94 per cent so this figure is higher than anticipated."

"It is a sign of the times. There are rising costs for electric and gas, while council tax is a hidden tax where unfortunately people don't think they are getting value for money."

"When you don't pay your electric the light goes off. But if you don't pay council tax children still get educated and elderly people still get cared for."

The Conservative councillor said he felt Poll Tax, replaced by Council Tax in 1993, was a fairer system.

A council spokeswoman said: "Walsall Council will continue to collect debts and takes a proactive approach to do so. For those who can pay but won't – we enforce collection through court action and this is undertaken throughout the year."

Dismay over sale of old school site

A COUNCILLOR has said she 'still can't understand why' a former school site was sold after it was revealed Walsall Council made almost £7 million from selling off land in the last five years.

Last week the Express & Star revealed that Walsall Council had raked in £6,983,937 selling 41 plots since January 2013, with nearly £4m of that coming from former school land.

Councillor Rose Martin, who opposed the sale of the former Three Crowns School site, at Skip Lane after it closed in 2006, said that she still believes the site should not have been sold. The sale brought in £1,503,000 for the council.

Councillor Martin said: "I still can't understand why that site was sold, so

Track trespassers spark train delays

TRESPASSERS on railway tracks in Walsall caused more than half an hour of delays to local services. London Midland said the incident happened at around 3.25pm last Thursday and delays were soon cleared.

Sign of Saddlers Yule never believe



The sign at Bescot Stadium, Walsall, advertising the Christmas party

A GIANT sign advertising Christmas parties has appeared by the side of the M6 in the Black Country – two weeks before Easter.

Drivers were left scratching their heads after the display was erected on the M6, near junction 10 for Walsall. The bright red electronic advert for WFC The Venue reads 'Christmas Party Nights 2017' and features a bauble and a link to their website. WFC The Venue is run by Walsall FC.

Bosses said the premature ad was simply responding to customers' demands.

It was put up when the clocks went forward for British summertime – around 272 days before December 25.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, who represents the Wednesbury North ward, said: "It's not even Easter yet and we're still thinking about spring and planning for summer."

A spokesman for Walsall FC said: "The reason Christmas is on there now is because it is a popular event and already we are having enquiries for our 2017 itinerary."

Motorist Ben Williams said: "I don't understand why a Christmas ad has gone up when it is only March."

The ad has appeared days after the huge Smile for Joel billboard went up at nearby Banks's Stadium, advertising the charity match which will take place on May 13.

Improved service for rheumatology patients

EXTRA clinics, a nurse-led advice line, stronger links with GPs and research into early arthritis are among improvements made in the rheumatology service now being offered to patients at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust says it has been working in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust and Dudley Group Foundation Trust through the Black Country Alliance to make the service more sustainable.

The collaborative approach was taken following the loss of two rheumatology consultant posts and nursing team at Walsall and difficulties in finding replacement staff.

Four new rheumatology consultants have been appointed at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals and, with the existing consultant and senior nursing team, they are working in partnership with Walsall's remaining staff.

While Dudley colleagues are not contributing any clinical input at present they may still help to develop the service further in the future.

Dr Deva Situnayake, clinical Lead for the BCA Walsall project and consultant rheumatologist at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital, said: "We are really proud of the much improved rheumatology service for Walsall patients which embraces our vision of Becoming your partners for first class integrated care."

Unsustainable

"When we lost the two rheumatology consultant posts from Walsall and found it difficult to replace them with high calibre colleagues as the unit was small and unsustainable, we knew we needed to work with partners across the BCA to ensure the service continued for Walsall patients."

"We have not only ensured the sustainability of the service but also enhanced the service and patients are telling us it is making a real difference."

Dr Situnayake, speaking about the service's improvement, said: "We have formed a cohesive team with Sandwell and West Birmingham's bigger team of consultants, senior nursing staff and our own Walsall staff which means we can now offer daily outpatient sessions provided by consultants working with a specialist nurse. "This means patients have access to the specialist knowledge of the Sandwell team which Walsall was unable to offer before."

High flier jumps at chance to help



Barr Beacon School pupil Ben Saunders, aged 16, who is hitting new heights with a fundraising skydive

A 16-YEAR-OLD high jumper will be reaching new heights as he skydives to raise money for other aspiring athletes.

Barr Beacon School pupil Ben Saunders has been a valued member of Birchfield Harriers Athletics Club for the past six years, and has represented the West Midlands in high jumping.

Ultimately he hopes to compete at the highest level, and is well on his way to reaching this dream.

At the same time the teenager from Hammerwich, near Burntwood, is hoping to help others achieve their sporting ambitions, and has decided to support them through a fundraising skydive.

His leap from 12,000 feet will raise money for the Tom McCook fund, set up in memory of the Birchfield Harriers former president who passed away a year ago, to support young athletes with the costs that come with competing.

Ben said: "Money received will go to the fund for those children who cannot necessarily afford the equipment, kit, travel expenses and fees. Every child should be given a sporting chance – any donation is greatly received."

Ben's target is to raise £1,000. He will doing the tandem skydive at Tilstock Airfield on April 8.

To donate go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jumping-newheights

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



It's just the ticket for winding up wardens

A PARKING company has been working overtime in Birmingham, plastering a battered old Hyundai with 26 fixed penalty notices, worth £100 a time – at least 10 times what the car is worth.

It's not often that I feel much sympathy with traffic wardens, but on this occasion they have a point.

It must be a bit annoying if people just abandon old bangers on your property, with no legal way of getting them removed.

I don't suppose they will see any of the £2,600 they are seeking, but slapping on a fresh ticket each day probably brightens up the monotony of the job.

Besides, it's also given me a great idea of how to beat the wardens at their own game. While I don't normally advocate using pay-and-display car parks, there are occasions when there is no choice. Such as when you're in a strange town, and you don't know where the nearest back street with unlimited free parking is.

The important thing is that every time you use one of these car parks, make sure you hang on to the old ticket. And when you have built up a sizeable collection, stick every one on the windscreen every time you park.

Of course, you will still have to buy a ticket each time you park, but imagine making the warden check the dates of 20 different tickets. Almost worth the cost of buying the ticket in the first place.

□ □ □

SIR Dave Brailsford has been accused of presiding over a bullying culture during his time at the helm of British Cycling, pursuing a "win-at-all-costs" mentality.

This was followed by the chairman of UK Athletics, Ed Warner, saying that Britain puts too much focus on winning medals. Presumably, the England football team's in the clear, then?

□ □ □

THE chief constable of West Midlands Police has rallied against proposals for future police chiefs to be recruited from non-police backgrounds.

Dave Thompson said such a move would be "unthinkable", questioning whether outsiders would have the experience or knowledge required.

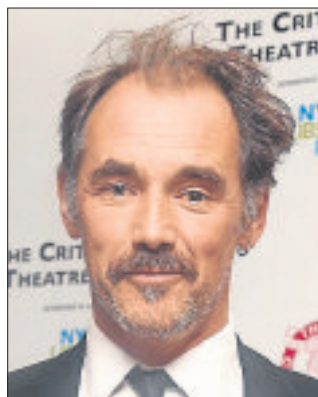
Totally agree. It would like, well, an MP with no journalistic experience becoming editor of a major newspaper, wouldn't it?

□ □ □

A SHOPPING centre in Dudley has been accused of dodging rates by claiming that a unit on its sixth floor is a snail farm.

Two questions: (1) how hard can it be to establish the presence or otherwise of a snail farm? If the place is teeming with shelled molluscs, it probably is one, if not, it's not. (2) Who in their right mind would want to breed snails, apart from, perhaps, the manufacturers of slug pellets?

Headlines could apply to any country JOINING the EU



Mark Rylance – supports questions over income tax exemptions



Jean-Claude Juncker – led the hand-wringing over UK leaving the EU



Nicola Sturgeon – angry over delay over a Scottish referendum

Leap in the dark, that was many years ago

INTO the abyss. On the edge of the unknown. A leap in the dark. Have you noticed how all the apocalyptic headlines about Britain leaving the EU could be just as well applied to any country joining the EU?

INDEED, history may record that Britain's greatest gift to Europe was to warn the nations now queuing up to join the EU that getting out is not a simple matter, as we were assured for 40 years, but well-nigh impossible. Once you're in, you're in and before the welcoming fanfares are even over, the gates are firmly locked behind you.

THEY still don't get it, do they? Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker led the hand-wringing and breast-beating as the European Union celebrated its 60th birthday without Britain. It was, he declared, a tragedy that the UK was leaving. Reality check, please. The whole point is that we are not leaving the organisation we joined back in 1973. The UK signed up to a free-trade area. We ended up as an unwilling member of an undemocratic 28-nation European superstate. Brussels changed the rules, not us. That's why we are quitting. And we won't be the last.

WHO will blink first in the titanic battle of the Amazons raging over Scottish independence?

Here are two obdurate women, neither of whom are given to retreating, in eyeball-to-eyeball conflict over one of the great issues of the day, which will affect these islands for generations to come. Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister, says Prime Minister Theresa May should not dare challenge the expected decision of the Scottish Parliament over an earlier, rather than a later, referendum on independence. May says a referendum cannot be countenanced until after Brexit. In short, never the twain shall meet.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I MUST be missing something in the raging civil-liberties row over an Englishman's right not to have his "end to end" encrypted emails deciphered by the authorities. For a start, what sort of person thinks he needs military-grade coding? Obviously, it's useful for adulterers, drug dealers and terrorists. But why would a normal, law-abiding person need it? It has only been available for a few years and presumably people managed perfectly well before it was invented. Secondly, if you really are dealing in life-or-death secrets, why would you take the risk, despite the maker's assurances, that end-to-end encryption will be secure for all time, and that neither the supplier, nor anyone else will try to unravel it? Thanks, but no thanks. When I go undercover I will rely on my trusty invisible ink, dead letter boxes and cryptic spy-greetings whispered on benches in Hyde Park. The corn grows tall in Vladivostok.

A DAILY Telegraph reader sees a peacock butler in late March and asks: "Is this a record?" Expect more of the same as readers everywhere report spring arrivals, from butterflies to cuckoos. They always end with the question: "Is this a record?" Every claim reminds me of the line from Round the Horne when a reader inquired: "Sir, I have a 12-inch grooved plastic disc with a hole in the middle. Is this a record?"

AN 80-something reader hits back at the report of old 'uns being wary of using cashpoints in case they hold up younger users. He tells another tale, of young 'uns causing the hold-ups:

"In goes the card and, oops, it's maxed out. He tries another card. Same result. Checks the account balance. Turns to his mate: 'Got your card?' Then the performance starts all over again."

I WROTE earlier this week about actor Mark Rylance supporting a tax system which would allow conscientious objectors not to pay income tax for defence spending. A reader writes: "In my view we should not be obliged to subsidise the arts from our taxes." Over to you, Mr Rylance.

"MERCATOR projection" may ring a bell from your school-days geography lessons. It is the commonest format used to portray the globe of the world as a flat map. Unfortunately, Mercator distorts the continents, shrinking Africa and enlarging Europe and North America. Schools in Massachusetts are now introducing maps based on the more accurate Peters projection. Pupils are reportedly astonished to discover how big Africa really is, and how much smaller is the United States. And our homeland? The British Isles appears as a little outcrop tucked away almost on the roof of the world. Such a tiny, insignificant place. So why does the rest of the world speak our language?

I BET there are huge savings to be made in the NHS by stopping doctors prescribing remedies which can be bought over the counter. The proposal, announced by NHS England, takes me back to a strange encounter with a doctor long ago when I had a sore throat. He was one of the old-school GPs; no eye-contact, little patience and much mumbling. "You could always try mumble-mumble," he mumbled. "Try what?" I asked. He sighed irritably, filled out a prescription form and handed it to me. It said "Strepsils." The Strepsils were cheaper at the chemist's than the cost of the prescription.

TALKING POINT



Bingo! I made grade by ticking right box

MANY years ago (all right, I confess, it was the early 1970s) I found myself facing a daunting challenge – trying to scrape a French O-level with only a rudimentary grasp of the language.

I'd done all right in class, with the help of the school's state-of-the-art language lab, a number of "personal" booths complete with tape recorders, allowing pupils to work at their own pace.

The exam itself, however, was a different matter. How would I be able to remember all those male/female nouns, verbs and accents? But wait, help was at hand in the shape of a series of multiple-choice questions, or "bingo papers" as they were known among us pupils.

I'll come to how I fared in a moment, but first let me explain how I came to recall that experience of pinning my hopes on ticking enough correct boxes in order to gain an educational qualification.

Just recently, I was filling in an application form online, only to find that I was prevented from clicking through to the next page by an ominous message telling me that my attempts so far were invalid, or words to that effect.

Luckily, I noticed on scrolling to the top of the page that another message informed me the passwords I had entered were wrong, so I checked them carefully, only to find I had typed them exactly as I had written them down.

After several minutes of re-entering these infuriating codes, I was on the verge of giving up and going back to the tried and tested method of pen and paper, when I had a brainwave: check that I'd written the passwords down correctly. Doh! I'd written down one bit wrong.

I was able to sail through the rest of the application process. All this started me thinking: have we become so reliant on ticking boxes online that we've lost our powers of logic? So many websites these days seem at least half-a-dozen clicks of the mouse ahead of the user. Type in your postcode and you'll be offered a list of the houses in your street.

And if you've used that website previously, it can be most alarming when, on being asked for your email address, you only have to offer up the first letter and the site will do the rest.

Then there's the conundrum of having to distinguish the letter O from the figure zero when asked to type in a security code, not forgetting the crazy notion that we automatically know whether to put spaces in, say, a phone number or 16-digit bank card number – and only after we've navigated the "Would you care to take our survey?" page.

I've decided we're just not up to any of this yet, especially as coming up with a "strong" password with a specified number of symbols, characters, both upper and lower case, and numerals can often take so long. As for the French O-level, I got a (very low-grade) pass. Bingo!

STEVE PARLETT

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Doom and gloom from the remoaners

HERE we go again, the remoaners rearing their ugly heads with predictions of doom and gloom.

We have already heard this time and time again from Cameron, Osborne, Carney and the rest of them. Listening to these individuals – who quite clearly have no faith in their own country, or its inhabitants – you would never believe that we won two world wars.

It would also seem to me that the remoaners wish to keep the unelected bureaucrats of Brussels in the luxury

they currently enjoy. They are dining on fine wines and food, receiving mega salaries and expenses, while 130,000 British children and living in poverty.

I abhor being a part of a society where greed and money have become the order of the day. Look around at Blair, Cameron, Osborne and the like, where money has become their god.

Do they care about poverty and fairness? Of course not, and the remoaners obviously fall into this category. What sort of society have we become, where

it is quite obvious money now rules.

Thank goodness I am the age I am, I have seen better times when communities helped one another, unfortunately these days have sadly disappeared and it makes my blood boil to see what is happening to my country. Finally, if the remoaners are so entrenched in the EU they could always emigrate to France, Germany and the like, and we can all wave them goodbye.

MRS C A HARRIS
Willenhall

Charges for vets' service over the top

COULD somebody tell me why veterinary practices in our region charge so much money for treatments, injections, etc?

We have taken in a stray cat over the last four months and we have taken him to our local vets for treatment and consultations, around four visits now. The cat has had ear drops, antibiotic injections for his skin infection, two lots of tablets and liquid medication.

The cat had a swab taken of a cut to his head by the vet. When we came to pay the bill was over £190.

Why do we pay so much money for animal drugs and other medications? We did some research online and found out that the tablets prescribed to us for our cat cost 30p each per tablet! But you have to have a prescription! I think the charges are absolutely scandalous and something needs to be done.

A consultation alone costs £26-£30 a time. Up to now we have spent over £400.

If you have pet insurance, you have to pay an excess charge anyway and the policy does not cover for annual cat five booster injections or usual worming tablets and flea injections. I just wonder how many people like myself are being taken for a ride by these vets?

ROGER WALKER
Darlaston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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EMAIL

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Brothers fall either side of Brexit fence

I HAVE just read that Jenny James is upset that I described Brexiters as blinkered. Don't worry Jenny you are in reasonable company, my BSc Hons, brother is a Brexitier. I opted to remain based on my years in the steel industry.

Although I am retired I still follow business and I have noted that our businesses try to manufacture near the point of sale. So J C Bamford manufactures in India, China, Brazil the USA, etc, Dyson manufactures in Malaysia and so on. Therefore selling outside of the EU is likely to reduce UK jobs. Manufacturing and material costs are cheaper in most of these countries. Once out of the EU every remaining country will be gunning for our current sales into the EU. I'm afraid we don't have the single-minded drive of Germany, Singapore, etc, and we will be overwhelmed.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

In search of McDonald family link

I AM trying to research the family of a friend and hoped there might be one of your readers who might be able to help.

In particular I am trying to trace information about Robert William McDonald who was born on January 5 1930/31, possibly in Anniesland, Glasgow. His parents were Joseph and Euphemia and his siblings

were Tom and Jeanette. The family's address from 1956-1960 was 46 Exeter Road, Smethwick. Robert's death was registered in February 1984. He did his military service around 1952/3 with the Argyle and Sutherland.

Tim Topham, Cornwall
timjune1@googlemail.com

Foreign is historical terminology

COUNCILLOR Eileen Russell, of St Matthew's, Walsall, has been criticised for referring to Pheasey as being 'foreign'. In 1851, Walsall consisted of two townships – the Borough and the Foreign. The Foreign contained Bloxwich, Rushall, Bentley, Walsall Wood and smaller settlements.

Even now St Matthew's, the parish church of Walsall, has two churchwardens for the borough and two churchwardens for the foreign. Councillor Russell has been guilty of using a historical term.

On the other side of Barr Beacon and Great Barr Park, Pheasey is somewhat separated from Walsall. Geographically it is part of the Birmingham conurbation and was never within Walsall Foreign. In the way that Black Country people like to define themselves from Brummies, Pheasey is – in the nicest possible way – foreign!

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Services for sufferers praised by inspectors

MENTAL health services in Walsall and Dudley have been given a boost with a 'good' rating from government inspectors and praise for 'significant improvements'.

The inspection was carried out by the Care Quality Commission who judged the care provided by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

By Marion Brennan

The trust provides services to around 560,000 patients across the two towns.

It was previously inspected in February 2016 when it was rated as 'requires improvement' overall. Inspectors found considerable improvements had been made.

However bosses still needed to do more work in the category of making services effective, which was judged as 'requiring improvement'.

The CQC's deputy Chief Inspector of Hospitals, and lead for mental health, Dr Paul Lelliott, said: "Overall, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust provides good care to the population that it serves.

"The trust can be proud of the services it manages. Since our previous inspection in February 2016, the trust has made significant

improvements to the quality of care provided to patients.

"We found that senior management had continued to develop a new positive culture of leadership. Staff morale was good across most services."

He said safeguarding processes were 'robust' and involved a good level of staff training, and that staff displayed a caring attitude towards people who used services. Feedback from patients, carers and families was also 'very positive'.

However, there were areas where improvements were needed. But Dr Lelliott said: "The trust has told us they have listened to our inspectors' findings and we are confident that the executive team, with the support of their staff, will work to deliver these improvements on behalf of all of their patients."

Antonio stars in film alongside Billie Piper



Ex-Wednesbury student Antonio Aakeel, who is starring in a movie which is now on general release

A FORMER Wednesbury student is hitting the big time – and the big screen – starring alongside Billie Piper in a new film. City of Tiny Lights was given a special preview screening last week, at Cineworld in Broad Street, Birmingham, tomorrow, before it was being released nationwide yesterday.

Black Country lad Antonio Aakeel plays a young version of one of the story's main characters, a detective called Lovely. Also starring Riz Ahmed, who appeared in Nightcrawler and Jason Bourne, the movie is based on a novel of the same name. It follows Tommy, played by Ahmed, who meets prostitute Melody, Piper, in a story described as 'utterly original modern noir'.

Antonio, aged 21, went to Dunstall Hill Primary School in Wolverhampton before going to Wodensborough Ormiston Academy, then he studied for A-Levels at Mathew Bolton College in Sutton Coldfield.

After doing some acting courses, he found an agent who helped him find acting work. He has been in Skins, Doctors and played a small role in feature film called The Contract.



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Residents in shock as five cars hit by vandals

VANDALS smashed through the windows of five cars on one street during a spree in the early hours.

Residents on Round Hill Way, Brownhills, woke up on the morning of Friday March 24 to find that both the passenger and driver windows on their cars had been smashed, with the insides 'turned upside down' in a search for valuables.

Resident Rona Bliss said that the damage was 'senseless' and called on others in the community to ensure they don't give thieves any opportunity to do the same to them.

Rona's car, as well as her husband Darren's and son Cameron's were all hit during the attack.

She said: "I woke up at 7.30am ready to go to work and my husband, who had been up before me and taken the dog for a walk, came in and told me that I wouldn't be going to work today."

Expensive

"I spent all morning cleaning glass up and it just feels like such a senseless crime. I understand that this kind of thing does happen all over but it's a real wake up sign when it happens to you. There wasn't anything expensive on display, but I suppose they just wanted to take a chance."

Mrs Bliss, 50, has lived on Round Hill for more than 25 years and says that she has never known such serious trouble to take place.

She said: "It is in general a lovely area and we don't get much trouble here, this is the worst thing I have known to happen."

"We hope the police will get to the bottom of it but we didn't have CCTV installed ourselves and it's not the sort of area the council would want to put cameras up in."



Rona Bliss looks at some of the cars damaged at Roundhill Way, Brownhills

Life-saving devices put up

A SOUTH Staffordshire group that formed less than a year ago has secured seven life-saving devices for its village. Great Wyrley Defibrillators, also known as The WDs, has managed to get the equipment put in place all around their community, including St Mark's Parish Church. The group was formed in June when resident Ron Myatt reached out to others for help.

He wanted to get defibrillators in place at prominent sites in the village for use in case of an emergency.

Made up of Mr Myatt, Dot Burton, Alan Kelsey and Peter Holmes, the group set about securing funds to get the project off the ground.

They started with a collection at Great Wyrley Carnival before holding a series of concerts and events.

Businesses in the village also donated money and the group was awarded a grant from Awards for All, run by the National Lottery. For further information visit the website www.thewds.co.uk



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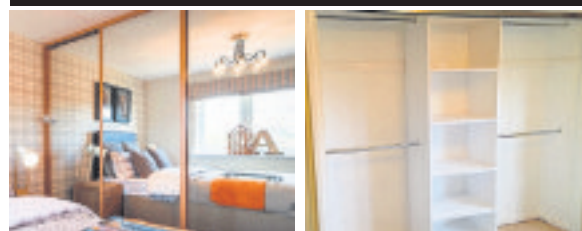
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Minor changes made as classic becomes a hearse

WHEN Andrew and Judith Bywater found their wedding car hire business was being hit by the recession they needed a new way to drive trade.

And the Staffordshire couple came up with novel twist – converting their classic 50-year-old Morris Minor Traveller into a hearse!

Trudy, as the car is known, has been transporting fans of the marque on their fitting final journey since 2011 after a Staffordshire couple embarked on an 18-month mission to overhaul the car.

Andrew and Judith Bywater, from Heath Hayes, near Cannock, are Trudy's owners – and say they are 'living the dream'. The move was sparked by Mrs Bywater's part-time job as an organist at a crematorium.

For decades the couple have been restoring cars and used to provide a different white Morris Minor for wedding hire, transporting more than 200 couples.

In 2006, Mr Bywater left his job to turn his attention to their business full-time.

But he nearly regretted the move after the 2008 financial crash, which saw the couple from Cannock Road, Heath Hayes, record a noticeable drop in bookings.

Mr Bywater, aged 57, said: "We saw a drop off – weddings were one of the outgoings that got deferred by people. We were left thinking of what alternative income we could make to do with classic cars."

They came up with an off-beat plan. It was 51-year-old Mrs Bywater's role at Stafford Crematorium – where she had worked for more than 30 years – which inspired the idea.

Mr Bywater said: "It seemed to make sense with what my wife does but originally we weren't sure a coffin would fit."

"After a bit of lateral thinking, I thought I could take out the front



Andrew and Judith with their 1965 classic car which has been transformed



Judith Bywater with the coffin deck inside the Morris Minor Traveller hearse

seat. It took a lot of careful measuring and tweaking. We bought the Traveller from Colmore Depot in West Bromwich and the coffin deck from a Mercedes which was going to race at Hednesford Hills, so it's all local."

The Morris Minor debuted in London in September 1948 – and it is customary for them to be given female names. Trudy was built and registered

in 1965 and bought as a run-down wreck by Mr Bywater in 2009. In 2011, following a £15,000 transformation the couple began their new venture.

It has since been used for 47 funerals. Most have been local, but they have also gone as far afield as Swindon. Mr Bywater said: "We've turned a hobby into a business, we are living the dream."

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Simon Riley from Wombourne with his book



The crew of the Plymouth ship seen during the Falklands War



Simon's picture of the attack by the Argentinian Skyhawks



Simon nicknamed 'Spike' the radio operator



The hole in the Plymouth's funnel caused by a missile

Ex-radio operator Simon tunes in to his experiences during Falklands War

IT'S not a book title that suggests the author is a Falklands War veteran who survived an air attack by five Skyhawk jets at close range.

But Simon's A Poof's Name is the title that 55-year-old Simon Riley wanted for his no-holds-barred memoir of his time in the Royal Navy, including his stint on active service in the Falklands on HMS Plymouth.

The title is a direct quote from his boss on board ship, Radio Supervisor Wright, a burly Scot who from then on always referred to him by his nickname of Spike.

The book contains many anecdotes about life on the ocean wave on a boat staffed by a crew that was 75 per cent Glaswegian. There is even humour in the one stand-out story of the day HMS Plymouth was bombed – and hit – by Argentinian fighter pilots. Simon had not joined up in December 1979 expecting to go to war.

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

"I was looking for adventure, and joining the navy, visiting different parts of the world, seemed like a fairly safe bet," he recalls, sitting at the kitchen table of his neat Wombourne house.

But in April 1982, as his unit were on spring training in Gibraltar, looking forward to an imminent five-month deployment to the West Indies, news came over the World Service of an invasion of Britain's remote Falkland Islands.

"We wondered why on earth anyone would want to invade an island in the Outer Hebrides, says Simon, at the time a 20-year-old radio operator. "We had no idea where the Falklands were." But they had time to find out on the three-week 8,000 mile journey to the tip of South America at the head of the Task Force.

Once there, they spent long days on

watch, broken up only by the occasional daylight air raid on San Carlos Bay, known as Bomb Alley.

It was June 8 when that routine suddenly changed and HMS Plymouth came under fire as it nosed out of the bay to fire some 4.5in shells to the other side of the islands where there was reported to be an enemy observation point.

"I remember looking left and seeing five jets coming towards us," he says.

"The ship turned around and we were at full steam heading back to Bomb Alley when they swooped again and dropped five 1,000lb bombs on us, as well as 30mm and 20mm cannon shells which smashed into the port side."

Two of the bombs narrowly missed, but two more hit the quarter deck and another went through the funnel.

Amazingly, amid the noise and chaos on board, the young seaman had reached for his camera and taken pictures of the Skyhawks' approach. But for the next few hours, it was all hands on deck as thick,

acid fumes filled the ship from fires in the petty officers' mess and the dining hall.

The ship had also started to list as it took in water.

"The smoke was so thick you couldn't see through it. I remember throwing my gas mask to one of the lads in the tiller house so he could at least steer the ship."

"A couple of the guys in the turret got injured but not too seriously. We were so lucky – it was ridiculous."

Thirty-five years on, after time spent running a bar in Spain, working in commodity markets in London and walking the beat as a police officer stationed in West Bromwich, he decided to write down his experiences.

"I'd got all these stories in my head that I wanted to get down on paper, and I wanted to make my story different from other Falklands memoirs by making it light-hearted."

Now a family man, and a remarkably youthful-looking grandfather of two, he still meets up with his former shipmates at regular reunions. "We never did get to the West Indies," he grins.

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COMPETITION

Anniversary bash set to be a thriller

GREEN-FINGERED thrills abound for all ages with BBC Gardeners' World Live due at Birmingham's NEC in just a couple of months.

And this year it is a celebration of 50 years of Gardeners' World, in Monty Don's own words, this is "our big anniversary bash". For foodies it's a double bonus as all tickets include entry to the BBC Good Food Show taking place at the NEC at the same time - June 15-18. The Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to offer 30 of our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets. These will be valid any day except Saturday.

So much on offer, the five gardens in the APL avenue offer take-home ideas, while a range of flora is on show across the Floral Marquee and a series of Show Gardens. The BBC Gardeners' World Live Theatre features appearances by celebrities such as TV gardeners Monty Don and Alan

Titchmarsh. The new series of the Gardeners' World TV programme has started with a feature on the Golden Jubilee Award Plant, to find the plant that has had the biggest impact on gardens in the last 50 years. The winning plant will be announced at BBC Gardeners' World Live on Thursday, June 15.

There will be a host of anniversary features planned including an 'Anniversary Garden' designed by the eminent Professor David Stevens, the 'Nostalgia Garden' by Paul Stone and birthday cake created exclusively by Nadiya Hussain and much more.

The BBC TV team will be filming live from the Show on Thursday, June 15 as part of a special one-hour anniversary Gardeners' World programme airing on BBC2 on the following day whilst the NEC event is in full swing.

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Carl has got a lot of bottle for award hope

A MILKMAN who delivers morning pintas to Brownhills folk, is in touching distance of reaching the final of a top competition.

Carl Price, who lives in Wolverhampton, is one of just six to reach the semi-finals of the national competition.

And has secured one of the six coveted semi-final places, with the possibility of being crowned milk&more Milkman of the Year 2017 on April 24.

The competition received a total of 10,000 nominations from customers across England and Wales who nominated their favourite milkman.

Alongside Brownhills, the 52-year-old currently serves the Norton Canes, Heath Hayes and Hednesford areas.

He says his favourite part of the job is working outdoors, meeting his customers and the relationships he has built with them throughout his career.

Nominated

"I am so pleased to be recognised for a job I love, by people I consider friends," he said. "We're a team at milk&more, and we are all really focused on the service we provide. It's my goal to make sure that my customers have everything they need, when they need it, so to be nominated by them means the world to me."

A milkman for 33 years, he beat off stiff competition from just under 1,200 milk&more milkmen due to his caring nature, reliability and friendly service through numerous nominations received from customers.

Organisers say the competition highlights the role each and every milk&more milkman and woman plays within the local community and illustrates how important the service is. Ron Rennie, operations manager at milk&more's Wolverhampton depot,



Black Country milkman Carl Price is up for a top award

said: "Carl is a real example to anyone in this industry. He goes above and beyond. He has been known to run errands and change the odd light bulb, that sort of thing."

"In today's society that goes a long way and is appreciated by customers. Today being a milkman is so much more than just delivering the milk, you have a real role to play."

Chris Munn, head of marketing at milk&more added: "We believe that our milkmen and women are integral to their communities and we're thrilled at the response."

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14 **Baroness visit puts focus on crime victims**

The Chronicle Thursday, April 6, 2017

BARONESS Newlove visited the West Midlands to hear about the police force's work in supporting victims of crime.

The Victims' Commissioner met Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson to discuss the specialist team of police officers that supports bereaved families following fatal car crashes.

Baroness Newlove also heard stories from victims themselves as well as their experiences of support services in the region funded by the PCC.

Mr Jamieson said: "It was an extremely insightful day with Baroness Newlove, who is visiting PCCs around the country to find out how victims of crime are supported in each area."

"She was particularly interested in the specialist officers who support families after fatal car crashes, as well as hearing about our work in the fields of FGM, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse."

"We also had an in-depth discussion about my desire to see criminals' fines ploughed back into services for victims."

Baroness Newlove described the visit as 'interesting and useful' and was impressed with the collaborative approach to victim care in the West Midlands.

Chief applauds 'rapid progress' of work as St Matthew's Quarter taking shape

WORK at Walsall's new St Matthew's Quarter is making 'rapid progress' as it heads towards its completion date of May.

Developers St Modwen's have erected the steel frames on the future retail and leisure site, which is making 'progress week on week' according to Walsall Council.

When complete, the development will boast 55,000 sq ft of new units, ranging between 1,150 sq ft up to 24,400 sq ft. B&M Bargains and Poundland are already confirmed for the new development, named 'The Quarter'. St Modwen, which describes the development as 'exciting', said the scheme will help to 'diversify' retail in the town.

Gregg Titley, the development manager at St Modwen, said: "After many weeks of demolition works to prepare the site, it's exciting to see the steels supporting the new units coming out of the ground."

"The site is a prime location in the heart of Walsall's retail district and in



The St Matthew's Quarter takes shape with the church in the background

an area currently undergoing significant regeneration works.

"With the benefit of planning consent in place for up to 11 new stores across 55,000 sq ft of space and two household brands already signed-up, the development will diversify Walsall's retail offering and provide a

vibrant shopping destination for local people and visitors to enjoy."

The scheme is expected to create dozens of jobs. Walsall Council praised the 'rapid progress' of the site and said it would 'encourage further investment' for the town.

Simon Neilson, Walsall's execu-



There will be a total of 11 new stores

tive director for economy and environment, said: "We are pleased with the rapid progress in St Matthew's Quarter. The council is confident that schemes like this will encourage further investment into the heart of the town centre to support the ongoing regeneration of Walsall." The scheme



Part of the development in progress

is being delivered through St Modwen, Norton and Proffitt Developments, Gould Estates and Walsall Council.

Other work includes the redevelopment of the iconic Hole in the Wall. For more information on the St Matthew's Quarter development, visit www.thequarter-walsall.co.uk

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Guild celebrates 30th anniversary

TOWNSWOMEN Guild members in Great Wyrley celebrate the group's 30th anniversary next week.

The guild's monthly meeting takes place next Tuesday at Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church, Walsall Road.

It now has a total of 103 members after opening with just nine in 1987.

Celebrations continue with a party night which is being held on Friday, April 28 at Old Wyrley Hall, Olde Hall Lane, on Friday, April 28.

Entertainment will come from Tim Rooney and singing duo the 2Ds and there will be a buffet.

The guild meets on the second Tuesday each month and enjoys speakers, plus social and theatre outings, lunches out and a regular coffee morning, as well as a Book Club and Drama Club.

New members are always welcome.

Dog attacked delivery man as he brought medication for woman

A DOG attacked a delivery man who was bringing medication for its owner's sister.

Edward Goode of Chapel Street, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty to being the owner in charge of dog dangerously out of control causing injury when he appeared at Walsall Magistrates court on Friday.

The case was adjourned by Magistrate Ms Eileen Jones until April 28 so that a report on the behaviour of the dog can be prepared by police.

The report will be heard at Walsall Magistrates court on April 28 where sentencing will then take place. The court heard how 52-year-old Goode had owned the black and tan German

By Jessica Labhart

Shepherd dog called Maisy for six years when it attacked delivery man Rajesh Sharma, outside his home on October 17 last year.

Mr Sharma was delivering medication to Mr Goode's sister, who lives with him, when the attack took place.

Mrs Val Hart, prosecuting, said: "Mr Sharma was speaking to Mr Goode's sister at her door when the dog ran out of the door and attacked him.

"The dog firstly bit his torso and his jacket, though the dog's teeth did not penetrate through Mr Sharma's clothing.

"Mr Sharma then turned and tried to run away, resulting in the dog biting him on the buttocks. Mr Sharma received two deep cuts and was treated by paramedics. Fortunately, Mr Sharma's clothing was thick."

A statement from Mr Sharma was read out in court. It said: "I turned to run. The dog then attacked me and bit my bottom causing me to fall. The dog tore my trousers and inflicted two cuts of 1.5 inches.

Secured

"Since the attacked I have felt nervous and anxious when carrying out my role. I am fearful of dogs even when I walk in the street."

The court heard how the dog managed to

get out of the house after the kitchen door was not secured properly.

Defending Mr Goode, Mr Shabeer Qureshi said: "He was living with his sister who has been having health problems. Mr Sharma was delivering her medication.

"The dog was left in the kitchen. Mr Goode found out afterwards that the latch had been damaged and the dog managed to get out.

"Because the dog is very protective of Mr Goode's sister, when Mr Sharma was handing over the medication, the dog misinterpreted this." Adjourning the case, Magistrate Jones said: "We need someone who has seen the animal to prepare a report on her behaviour and temperament."

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Discover what holiday parks have to offer at open event

A trio of parks in the heart of England are opening their gates over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

Award-winning 'Discover Parks', is hosting a showcase weekend at each of their three sites, which all nestle beneath the rolling hills on the Herefordshire/Welsh Marches border.

Pearl Lake, the largest of the trio, is a luxury country park set around a breath-taking 15-acre glacier lake, whilst Arrow Bank is a small select park in the historical black and white village of Eardisland.

Diversity

Rockbridge Park sits in the dramatic landscape just outside the Welsh border town of Presteigne and as well as having luxury holiday homes, offers residential park homes and lodges.

Priding themselves on the variety and diversity that they offer, owners Glenn and Hannah Jones say what sets them apart from their competitors is that they can usually match most holiday home owners' needs.

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want a smaller, more intimate country retreat. Within our three parks we are able to deliver on all counts!

"As well as a nine hole golf course, top class bowling green, 20 acres of woodland to wander in, two rivers to fish, we have recently introduced a



Pearl Lake is a luxury country park set around a 15-acre glacier lake

children's zip wire, a BMX track and a new wildlife station."

This is the first open weekend of the season and a chance for customers from across the Midlands region to view the wide range of pre-owned holiday homes, plus the latest 2017 model holiday homes and lodges on display.

Each park will be hosting events over the weekend and as they're all within 15 minutes drive of each other visitors will be able to familiarise themselves with the surrounding area.

Call in for full details or visit the website www.discoverparks.co.uk

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Ramblers are back on track

IT'S a busy weekend for The Walsall Group of the Ramblers, with its summer programme of walks getting under way.

The first short walk of the season will be around four miles at Middleton Hall near Tamworth, the meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C P (Lichfield Road) at 9.30pm. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 01922 416109.

This walk is part of a programme of short Saturday walks that run fortnightly and are aimed at those who are either new to

Sweet treats at tuck shop help victims

A TUCK shop which has been set up at a police station based in Bloxwich has helped prove a much needed pick-me-up for an elderly burglary victim.

Jane Hodges, aged 84, from Walsall, has been treated by officers with flowers, paid for by cash from the tuck shop kitty, after her home was burgled. Cops in Bloxwich are using cash from the sale of snacks in the station to carry out secret



Jane Hodges with her flowers from officers



Sgt Gemma Griffith with the police station tuck shop

Memorial tribute to lockmakers

A SERVICE will be held on Sunday to honour hundreds of Black Country lockmakers in Willenhall.

The dedication at, which takes place at midday, will mark the completion of the second phase of the lockmakers memorial project which saw the monument installed on the corner of Bilston Street and Walsall Street.

A total of 490 bricks, each inscribed with the name of a former lockmaker, have been laid at the site now following the launch of the project in 2014.

They were installed during two phases, the first batch of 270 were completed by Christmas 2015, with world-renowned lockmakers Assa Abloy funding a noticeboard to go alongside.

The second lot of 220 were finished by last November with H Squire & Son providing a map of lockmakers from Willenhall from the 1800s.

The service in April will also mark the launch of the third phase of the project which benefitted from a £10,000 Walsall Council grant.

The memorial recognises people who worked for leading industry names including Union, Yale, Chubb and Squire.

Councillor Diane Coughlan, who represents the town and is a member of the Willenhall Heritage Trust which launched the project, explained: "We have now had the second lot of bricks laid and on the ninth we will be holding a dedication service to mark that."

walking or haven't walked for a while. In the first of their new summer programme of Sunday walks they will be heading to Eardington (Shropshire) for a 9.75 mile circular walk. 'Walk with no name' is a moderate walk through woodlands and fields

Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leaders on 07954 396 032

More information about the Walsall Group is available on The Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk/walsall

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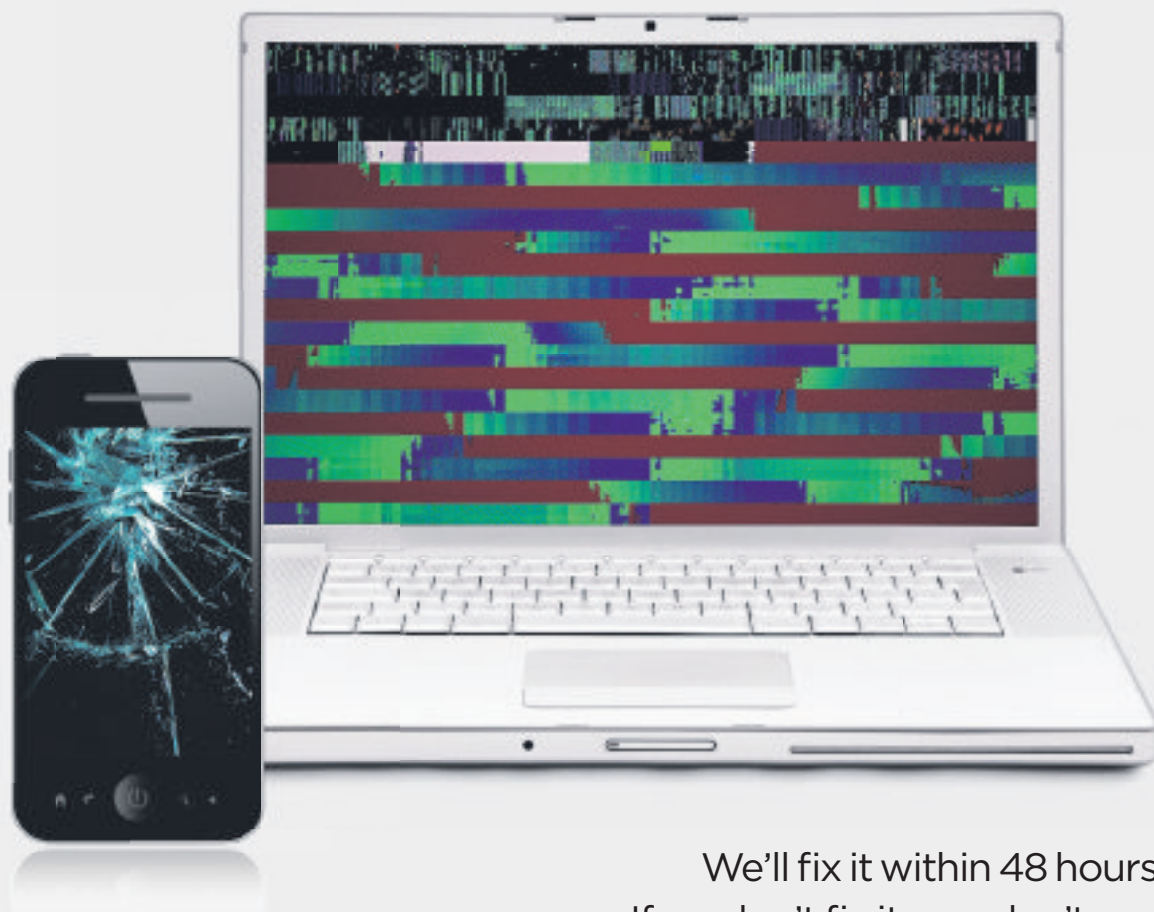
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Doreen for Mayor? No, I'm far too lazy

She's the first lady of the Black Country. Doreen Tipton, the region's pre-eminent Lazy Cow, is a crisp-eating, award-winning, panto-dazzling, loff-a-minute who'll be on the road in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Telford, Stafford, Brierley Hill and Cannock soon.

Her Grand Night Out is making its final run, her autumn show, Rise Of The Yam-Yam, is selling quicker than scratchings at a Dudley pub and she'll be back in panto at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

Happily, we tracked her down to Tipton - where else - to find out more about her remarkable year. This is how things went . . .

Doreen, first of all, congratulations on receiving two prestigious awards in the space of a week - Best Newcomer in the Great British Panto Awards in London, and then What's On readers voted you Midlands Entertainment Personality of the Year. How does it feel to be a winner?

"The panto award was a lovely surprise, and I got to meet Christopher Big Ones (Christopher Biggins), who is world-famous in tights. I couldn't remember anything that had happened the previous two months during the show, but I must have done something right.

"And the second award from What's On was even more incredible, because of who I was up against. It's an honour to be thought of in the same breath as the other four finalists. Julie Walters is a personal favourite of mine because I'm a big fan of the Harry Potter films, Bev Knight is a musical legend, and the bloke from Citizen Khan is apparently on the telly in a BBC comedy that they're really proud of, so I'm assuming he must be funny. I hadn't heard of Sir Lenny Henry, but he's obviously one to watch for the future. So yes, I feel blessed to have beaten them hands-down. But the losers have nothing to be ashamed of. They've done well to get this far."

What celebrations did you enjoy following the announcements? A packet of cheese and onion and half a Batham's, or something more exotic: a Desperate Dan pie and a pint of Lumphommer?

"Actually, I never drink on duty. Thankfully I'm never on duty, so it worked out well."

What are you working on at the moment?

"Working is probably too strong a word, but I have got several projects on the go. I'm currently in the middle of doing a short Spring tour with some final Grand Night Out shows for that that missed it first time around. Then I'm having a lie-down. We'll then be touring with a brand new show for autumn: Doreen: Rise of the Yam-Yam which is going to be epic. And along the way I'm filming a new DVD documentary called Doreen's Black Country where I tour around the area and meet some wonderful characters. I'm hoping it will be a funny and very affectionate account of our native land."

When you were growing up in Tipton, did you for a moment imagine you'd become an iconic local hero? Is there a sense of destiny about the rise and rise of the Yam-Yam?

"I'm not sure what iconic means, but if it means something nice, then yes. For too long the Black Country has lived in the shadow of neighbouring Brum, which itself has lived in the shadow of London. Nobody was taking us seriously. I hope that, through my comedy, I can finally get people to stop laughing at us."

From here, we imagine a move into politics. Will you be standing for the local council, as an MP, or seeking election as the President of another country?

"I was recently offered a job as President Trumpet's hod carrier, but at my age I thought better of it. Actually I have considered forming the Yam-Yam Party, and putting some common-sense policies in place, such as making people who break the law pay for their prison food and accommodation."

And what if they can't afford it?

"If they can't afford it, they can sell their house, like old folk have to in order to afford their care

What's sup - Doreen enjoys a pint in The Fountain Inn, Tipton



home. What's the difference? Except one's a criminal and the other isn't. I'm seriously considering becoming a tax-payer, so I can complain about how the Government spends my money. Perhaps if I do go into politics I'll start small. Isn't the West Midlands after a new Mayor?"

Do you fancy the job?

"Oh . . . is it a job? No then."

The vast riches that your success will have brought will have to be invested wisely, we imagine. Will you be buying property in Tipton, like The Wreck? Or will you invest in 'osses?

"So far I've invested everything into scratchcards, which offer the biggest return on your outlay. I think the scratchcard idea should be rolled out to welfare generally. For example, instead of the Government paying you housing benefit directly, which is boring, you could have a month's rent as one of the scratchcard prizes, or some child benefit, or a week's free jobseekers, and then have lots of smaller prizes of things like multi-packs of crisps, or Pringles, and lucky bags for the kids. It would also be a great way for Government to control welfare spending, so that none of it is wasted on gambling."

With such a busy schedule, we imagine the only way you keep in touch with current affairs is by reading your favourite newspaper: the Star. Why are both so brilliant?

"Because they focus on local issues, for local folk. It's all very well the mainstream media bleating on about Trumpdon and Brexit and foreign

I hadn't heard of Sir Lenny Henry, but he's obviously one to watch

countries every day, but what really matters is what happens down your street - or more importantly, down my street. In fact I think the Star should have an edition solely devoted to my street. There'd be some stories for you then, I tell you. Leave me out of it though."

And finally, Doreen, have you got a message for your fans?

"Ta."

Andy Richardson

I Doreen would like to make it clear that when it comes to politics, her views don't necessarily reflect her views.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Kasabian – at O2 Academy



For Crying Out Loud rockers go all intimate

Kasabian are back with an explosive new album brimming with confidence, swagger and huge tunes.

And despite their stadium rockers status, Leicester's finest will be packing out the more intimate O2 Academy on Thursday (13) as part of their low-key, ease-back-in April tour.

Their sixth album, *For Crying Out Loud*, is released on April 28. Written and produced by Kasabian wizard Serge Pizzorno, and recorded at the 'Surgery', his home city studio, the album features 12 tracks that encapsulate everything that makes Kasabian one of this country's top bands.

First single *You're In Love With A Psycho* is a big pop song with an irrepressible hook. Other highlights include the soon-to-be-summer-anthem *Bless This Acid House*, the contagious *Good Fight* and the rock

steady angst of *Ill Ray (the King)*. Lead singer Tom Meighan has never sounded so good, wrapping himself around the addictive hooks.

"I decided to give myself six weeks to write an album like they used to do back in the day and that became really inspiring," Serge recalls.

"I made sure there was no fat on anything, it was going to be classic songs, no self-indulgence.

Following the more electronic direction on 2014's '48:13' Kasabian were keen to make a truly great guitar album. "We wanted to make a very positive album full of hope with guitars to remind people that it's still relevant," says Serge.

Kasabian have four UK no1 albums and have sold more than 5.5 million albums worldwide. They've won a Brit, seven NME awards, four Q Awards and have headlined various festivals.

It's new Version of Me-lanie C



With her seventh album *Version Of Me* released on her own Red Girl Records label last October, former Spice Girl Melanie C is on tour this month including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Sunday.

Recorded in LA and London, *Version Of Me* is a richly textured, deeply personal album in which the Liverpoolian pop icon lays bare her life over beats, shimmering synths and strings.

It's described as Melanie as you've always known her but as you've never heard her before.

Working with longtime co-writers Peter Vettese and Adam Argyle,

alongside the young south London production duo Sons Of Sonix Melanie reckons it is the freshest, most contemporary-sounding album of her career.

"I wanted to make an album that I would listen to now," says Melanie.

"I'm not a leftfield artist, I never will be. I write pop songs, but my aim this time was to approach every aspect of them differently, to be more creative with structure and sounds."

The funky first single *Anytime* was released last year and sits alongside other album highlights including the synth-heavy *Dear Life*, the fusion of R&B and house beats on *Room For Love*, the strings-drenched title track and brutal album closer *Blame*.

The 43-year-old singer and actress from Merseyside, Melanie Chisholm first found fame in the 1990 as Mel C, AKA Sporty Spice, one of the five Spice Girls, who cause the biggest British pop phenomenon since Beatlemania.

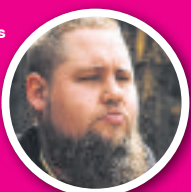
They were at the forefront of 'Girl Power' and 'Cool Britannia's British pop and youth culture seemed on the way to world domination via the pop music scene. Since going solo back in 1999, Melanie C has enjoyed two number 1 singles, six top 10 singles and more than three million album sales.

Melanie C has released a single from the new album. *Hold On* it features Alex Francis, who will also be her support at the Digbeth gig.

Rag 'n' Bone Man in tour sell-out

Rory Graham, AKA Rag 'n' Bone Man, has sold out his UK tour including his April 24 show at Birmingham's O2 Institute. That's not surprising considering his breakthrough hit *Human* is already being talked of in terms of a classic.

The success of *Human* around the globe follows years of performing. At the age of 15 he started rapping in his hometown of Uckfield and then at 19 started singing at local blues nights, then he joined Brighton hip-hop crew The Rum Committee.



70-year celebration for master of farce

Writer, director and master of farce Ray Cooney is celebrating 70 years in showbusiness.

Starting out as a teenaged actor in the 1940s - "I wanted to be Olivier, or even Danny Kaye because I loved comedy," he says - he became a top comedy playwright, much in demand after his *Run For Your Wife* ran in the West End for eight years.

The celebrations of his remarkable career are under way with an updated version of one of his favourite farces *Out Of Order*, which comes on tour to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 15.

The cast includes Shaun Williamson from *EastEnders* and *Extras*, Sue Holderness (*Marlene in Only Fools & Horses*) and James Holmes (*Miranda*).

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CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

Golf: The Masters Live (BBC2, 7.30pm)
Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. Jordan Spieth was the defending champion here last year and seemed destined to retain his crown as he led at the end of the third round, despite a one-over par 73 that saw him finish day three just one stroke clear of compatriot Smylie Kaufman. Danny Willett was tied for fifth and the leading European contender, though few would have expected the man from Sheffield to claim the first Major of his career as Spieth collapsed on day four. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Paul Azinger and Andrew Cotter.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.10** Live Davis Cup Tennis. France v Great Britain. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Film: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ben Stiller.
6.35 BBC News.
6.45 Regional Programme.
6.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a music edition of the celebrity general knowledge quiz, with contestants Mick Foster, Tony Allen, Pauline Black, Harvey, Jonathan Ansell, Faryl Smith, Lee Latchford-Evans and Michelle Heaton trying to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.
7.40 **Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.
8.25 **Casualty.** Connie makes an effort to show how much she cares on Grace's birthday. David returns for his first day back, and Robyn worries there is something wrong with baby Charlotte.
9.15 **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers for another edition of the Saturday night chat show. Filmed in front of a live studio audience, the irreverent Irish matriarch invites friends, family and celebrity guests to join her in the sitting room as she stages mischievous stunts, and gives her visitors a piece of her mind.
10.15 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Chelsea at the Vitality Stadium and Manchester City v Hull City.
11.55 Film: **I Am Number Four.** (2011) Teenager with special powers becomes a fugitive from aliens determined to hunt him down and destroy him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer.
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings. (2012) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **7.15** Film: G-Force. (2009) Children's adventure, starring Bill Nighy. **8.35** Film: Shark Tale. (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith. **10.00** Natural World: The Bat Man of Mexico. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.00** Golf: The Masters Highlights. **2.00** Flog It! (R) **3.00** University Challenge. (R) **3.30** Only Connect. Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the final, in which the two most successful teams vie to make connections between things that initially do not appear to be linked. Last in the series. (R) **4.00** Gardeners' World. Monty Don starts to plant up his new fruit garden and also addresses his need for summer flowering bulbs. Carol Klein chooses the primrose as her plant of the month. (R) **4.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. France v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces further coverage of the second day of the World Group quarter-final, featuring the doubles rubber at the Kindarena in Rouen. **5.30** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galletti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world, learning the tricks of the trade. (R) **6.30** **Hotel Armadillo: Natural World.** The giant armadillo, an animal so elusive few have ever seen it wild in the Brazilian wetlands region known as the Pantanal. David Attenborough reveals how the burrows the armadillos dig create homes for hundreds of other animals. Until recently man knew virtually nothing of this species, but Arnaud Desbiez, the founder of the Giant Armadillo Project, has changed all that. (R) **7.30** **Golf: The Masters Live.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues.
12.00 Film: Ilo Ilo. (2013) A Filipino maid in Singapore becomes a firm friend to the family she works for, but a financial crisis threatens her future. Drama, with Yann Yann Yeo and Tian Wen Chen. **1.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. **5.35** An Island Parish. Rosie Guille organises a visit from artists to capture the beauty of the island and lay preacher Karen Le Mouton considers leaving to pursue ordination training. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Alphabetical. (R) **10.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **11.25** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** Film: Carry On at Your Convenience. (1971) Comedy, starring Sid James. **2.00** ITV Racing – Grand National Festival. Ed Chamberlin presents live coverage of four races from Aintree. **4.35** ITV Racing Live: The Grand National. Coverage of today's race meetings.
6.10 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 **ITV News:** Weather.
6.30 **You've Been Framed! Gold.** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R) **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The popular duo's entertainment show bows out once in a live finale from Disney World, Florida. The pair will be making sure to end things in a suitably extravagant manner. Co-hosts Scarlet Moffatt and Stephen Mulhern will no doubt be giving fans on the street and in the studio a chance to be part of the action, and Emilia Fox aims to bring the case of The Missing Crown Jewels to a close, as this series' comedy sketch whodunit concludes. Last in the series.
8.30 **An Evening with Take That.** A performance by the pop group, featuring new material and special versions of some of their most popular hits in front of an audience of fans from across Europe.
9.35 Film: **King Kong.** (2005) Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, with Naomi Watts.
10.35 **ITV News:** Weather.
10.45 Film: **King Kong.** (2005) Concluded.
1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Extreme Food. **1.00** Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **3.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** Grand Designs. (R) **5.35** Channel 4 News.
6.05 **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree continue their renovation of a French chateau. The couple arrange to host weddings to pay for the work, and invest in solar power. (R) **7.00** **Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service.** The actress visits Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland. She discovers the daily routine of the household staff during a royal visit, and flicks through a scrapbook of mementos dating back to 1925, which provides an insight into how life in the royal family has changed over the years. She also meets the Queen's bugler, finds an unexpected treasure from the 1953 coronation tour and discovers how in 2012, the Queen played a simple but vital role in uniting two fractured communities in Enniskillen simply by crossing the road. (R) **8.00** **Film: Battleship.** (2012) A reckless slacker joins the Navy, hoping to win the respect of his girlfriend's father, a stern admiral. He and his shipmates are put to the ultimate test as part of a force of vessels that must battle an invading fleet of powerful alien spaceships. Sci-fi adventure, starring Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgard. Edited for language and violence.
10.35 Film: **Dredd.** (2012) A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.
12.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.15** Million Pound Motors. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.40** Access. **10.50** Police Interceptors: Unleashed. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) **2.20** On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) **3.20** On Benefits: Life on the Dole. (R) **4.20** Nightmarer Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Agents chase more than £1,700 in unpaid parking fines in south-east London, but struggle to pinpoint the debtor. Meanwhile, officers in north Wales try to recover the £2,000 owed by a tradesman to a former employer, and in Kent agencies chase £8,000 owed by a jewellery shop to two former employees. (R) **7.10** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Part one of two. Kensi is taken into custody as chief suspect in the murder of Marine Sergeant Chris Black, but fancies her chances of catching the real killer herself.
8.00 **NCIS.** The Secretary of the Navy's daughter is kidnapped, and the NCIS crew teams up with the FBI to track the case, determine a motive and bring her the abducted girl home.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Film: On 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Norwich City v Reading and Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle United.
10.00 **Film: On 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Bristol Rovers and Blackpool v Grimsby Town.
10.30 **Film: The Funny Side of Love and Sex.** Johnny Vegas, Nish Kumar and Nina Wadia are among the celebrities and comedy stars offering their opinions on the many weird habits people put up with while "in relationships".
11.30 **Comedy Pileups with Russell Kane.** Ian Stone introduces a stand-up performance by the writer and comedian on topical themes.
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Inside St Paul's Cathedral. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Silk Road. **8.00** Dust Storm. **8.45** Wild Scotland. **9.00** Film: Department O: The Keeper Of Lost Causes (2013) **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **11.40** Psychedelic Britannia **12.45** Totally 60s Psychedelic Rock at the BBC **1.45** Pink Floyd Beginnings 1967 – 1972 **2.45** Psychedelic Britannia **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.45** Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Top 10 Unbelievable Talents **1.45** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15** Hairspray Live! **4.45** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **7.00** Scorpion **8.00** Film: Burlesque (2010) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Burlesque (2010) **10.35** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Ibiza Weekender **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.45 Heidi **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Endeavour **7.00** Lewis **11.00** Les Dawson Forever **12.00** Colditz **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **7.10** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 The Virtual Grand National 2017 **12.00** Pawn Stars **1.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **2.55** Film: The Alamo (1960) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Alamo (1960) **6.05** It's Not Rocket Science **7.10** Fierce **8.15** Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.15** FYI Daily **9.20** Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **12.05** Film: Renegades (1989) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Renegades (1989) **2.10** Hogan's Heroes **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
2.30 The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Transporter 2 (2005) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube: Heroes and Villains **2.00** Naked Attraction **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** The Goldbergs **4.00** Baby Daddy **5.05** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
1.00 Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **3.05** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **4.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.35** Tower Heist (2011) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012) **11.15** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.15** Isolation (2005) **3.10** Close



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CHOICE



Thandie Newton

Line of Duty (BBC1, 9pm)
Kate is approached by another woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael Farmer. Combined with the new forensic evidence casting doubt over Tim Ifield, the revelation threatens to undermine AC-12 team's case, to Steve's fury. However, it gives Kate the opportunity to ingratiate herself further with the officers of Operation Tapdoor. Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Ifield disappeared, and sees a new direction for the investigation when he proves evasive.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Under. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Countryfile Spring Diaries. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Galapagos. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team are in Holderness in the east Riding of Yorkshire, where Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Spurn Island, an area separated from the mainland by the storm surge of 2013. Matt meets a lifeboat crew, while Anita goes in search of the island's wildlife. John Craven meets a photographer documenting farming communities on Sunk Island, while Adam Henson and Tom Heap report on dairy farming. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Pembroke Castle in South Wales, where objects brought in to be valued include a collection of intimate photographs charting the last days of the imprisoned Russian royal family in 1917, and a stick pin presented to one of George V's servants. A dairy maid demonstrates how to use a butter maker with a connection to Queen Victoria. **9.00** Line of Duty. Kate is approached by a woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael, while Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Ifield disappeared. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Sunderland v Manchester United at the Stadium of Light and Everton v Leicester City at Goodison Park. Sunderland have been at their best in the final months of the season in recent years, and need to be once again if they are to pull off an impressive escape from the relegation places. **11.30** I'm Different: Let Me Drive. The stories of two learner drivers on the autistic spectrum. **12.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 The Beechgrove Garden. **6.35** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Triathlon World Series Highlights. Action from the second round of the ITU World Triathlon Series from Gold Coast in Australia, featuring the men's and women's races. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. France v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the third day of the World Group quarter-final, featuring the concluding two singles rubbers at the Kindarena in Rouen. This fixture features the two nations that just missed out on last year's final, with Britain losing to Argentina and France defeated by Croatia in their semi-finals. **6.30** Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year concludes. Holder Jordan Spieth of America held the lead going into this stage in 2016, but England's Danny Willett came back from five shots down at the start of the final day last year, carding an impressive five-under-par 67 to win his maiden Major. Spieth eventually finished in second place alongside Willett's compatriot Lee Westwood on a day that was also notable for Shane Lowry, Davis Love III, and Louis Oosthuizen all making hole-in-ones on the 16th. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Paul Azinger and Andrew Cotter. **12.00** Film: The Tempest. (2010) A noblewoman with magical powers is banished to a remote island along with her daughter. She uses her abilities to dominate the mystical creatures living there and summons a storm that wrecks a ship. When the survivors come ashore, she learns one of them is her brother, who exiled her, and plans revenge. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren, Felicity Jones, Djimon Hounsou and Chris Cooper. **1.40** Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Gillingham in Kent, with a panel of politicians and other guests facing topical questions from the audience. (R) **2.40** Holly City. Serena faces her demons and comes to a heart-wrenching conclusion. Meanwhile, Zosia takes action when Isaac reveals his true colours, and Mo risks her professional reputation when she goes the extra mile. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Secret Dealers. (R) **11.30** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.45** The Chase. (R) **1.45** Film: Goldfinger. (1964) **3.55** An Evening with Take That. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R) **7.00** Five Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a couple takes on two friends to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. **8.00** Vera. A body is found buried on the Northumberland moors which could be a missing teenager, stirring up tension and suspicion in her nearby rural home town. Last in the series. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Lethal Weapon. Riggs and Murtaugh investigate a case surrounding the murder of a young model, and soon uncover a vicious secret behind the locked mansion gates of one of LA's wealthiest families. (R) **11.15** The Nightly Show Best Bits. Highlights from the sixth week of the entertainment show. **11.45** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight matches, including Wasps v Northampton Saints, Bath v Leicester Tigers and Saracens v Harlequins. **12.40** Jackpot247. **2.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.20** The Cube. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Gogglesprogs. (R) **2.30** Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **4.45** Film: The Boxtrolls. (2014) **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. The Grand Designs presenter sets out on a mission to find out if a simpler existence really can make people happier, beginning by travelling to a desert island in the south Pacific archipelago of Tonga to meet a British family who have quit the rat race. Karyn, Boris and their three children live in an off-grid property, with no fresh water or electricity and face regular threats from hurricanes and tsunamis. Kevin finds out how they cope with these challenges and the psychological trials of having just one another for company. (R) **8.00** Spying on the Royals. The conclusion of the two-part documentary about surveillance on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. In the wake of the abdication, the couple took a holiday in America, unaware they were being spied on by US intelligence agencies as well as British. The outbreak of the Second World War saw them move on to Lisbon, where their dealings with a known Nazi collaborator raised concerns for MI6. **9.00** Homeland. Keane and Saul join forces to shut down the campaign of disinformation, things come to a head for Carrie and Quinn, and Max is detained by Dar. **10.05** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy words and numbers quiz, with Lee Mack and Catherine Tate taking on Sean Lock and Miles Jupp, and John Cooper Clarke in Dictionary Corner. (R) **12.05** Film: The Guard. (2011) **1.50** Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year. (R) **2.45** Angels and the Battle for Iraq. (R) **3.40** Unreported World. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.05** Oily the Little White Van. **7.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.50** Film: Free Birds. (2013) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Owen Wilson. **3.30** 5 News Weekend. **3.35** Film: Fool's Gold. (2008) Romantic comedy adventure, with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. **5.45** Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **8.00** Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring puppies doing bizarre and humorous things. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** When Chat Shows Go Horribly Wrong. Gloria Hunniford narrates a compilation of talk show disasters. The programme features Eamonn Holmes' infamous interview with a monosyllabic David Blaine, Spike Milligan causing mayhem on Wogan, Joan Rivers launching into a rant at guest Brigitte Nielsen, and Katrina Buchanan enduring a succession of technical issues while appearing on a live Irish chat show. **12.05** One Night With My Ex. Another three ex-couples spend a night alone together. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Goren and Eames investigate the death of a wine connoisseur. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. The use of CCTV to tackle violent crime. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. Home improvements from Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. Murali cares for an injured bird. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain at War: Imperial War Museums at 100 **8.00** Teenage Tummies **9.00** Horizon: Global Weirding **10.00** Radio 2 Folk Awards 2017: Highlights **11.00** Arena: Alone with Chrissie Hynde **12.30** The Story of Maths **1.30** The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves **2.30** Exposed: Magicians, Psychics and Frauds - Storyville **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.00** 2Awesome: LA Sues **2.10** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.40** Mr Bean **3.50** Film: Liar Liar (1997) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: Liar Liar (1997) **5.35** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.35** FYI Daily **6.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.00** Film: Horrible Bosses (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Horrible Bosses (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.40 Heldi **1.40** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Les Dawson Forever **11.05** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
2.40 Film: The Alamo (1960) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: The Alamo (1960) **5.55** Fishing Impossible **6.55** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** River Monsters **1.50** Fifth Gear **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.00 Black-ish **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Film: Evolution (2001) **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **12.05** Celebrity First Dates **1.10** Naked Attraction **Film4**
11.00 The Black Shield of Falworth (1954) **1.00** Outbreak Island (1995) **3.25** Avatar (2009) **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** Extract (2010) **12.55** The Insider (1999) **4.00** Close

Source: BrainShark.com

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Hummingbird, Channel 5, 11pm
A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, by Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. (2013)

TUESDAY
No Strings Attached, BBC1, 11.35pm
Two childhood friends run into each other and end up sleeping together. Neither of them is interested in committing to a relationship, so they agree to keep things purely sexual. But despite their best efforts, they start to fall in love. Romantic comedy, starring Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher, Kevin Kline and Cary Elwes. (2011)



Selma, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A divorcee suspects nursery staff of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises and discovers why the owner may hold a grudge against her. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. (2014)

THURSDAY
Independence Daysaster, Channel 5, 3.15pm
America's fourth of July celebrations are abruptly interrupted when Earth is invaded by hostile aliens. A maverick scientist and a small-town firefighter join forces to find and activate the only piece of technology in the world that can destroy the extraterrestrial army. Sci-fi thriller, starring Ryan Merriman. (2013)

FRIDAY
Selma, BBC2, 9pm
In 1965, amidst an atmosphere of racial unrest, civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King Jr plans a peaceful march across Alabama from Selma to Montgomery. His goal is to persuade President Lyndon B Johnson to change the law, allowing black people to register to vote. Fact-based drama, starring David Oyelowo and Carmen Ejogo. (2014)

Returning series sees Peter back in the driving seat

Sometimes the best ideas are simple ones.

That's certainly the case for sitcoms anyway. Some of the greats have had a very straightforward premise. Stepoe and Son was set mainly in a scrapyard, Basil and Sybil never set foot outside the grounds of Fawley Towers and Father Ted was confined (mostly) to Craggy Island.

Peter Kay's Car Share follows in their footsteps by keeping the 'action' contained inside the car of assistant supermarket manager John Redmond's red Fiat 500L.

However, it didn't take its inspiration from any of the aforementioned programmes, but rather Roger & Val Have Just Got In, an underrated gem of a bittersweet comedy which aired for two series between 2010 and 2012. Alfred Molina and Dawn French played the central characters whose lives were unravelled during the half-hour following their return home from work.

Co-writers Tim Reid and Paul

Coleman also drew from the Bafta-winning sitcom The Smoking Room, which was cancelled after its premise – discussions between co-workers using an area set aside by their company for nicotine addicts – was made redundant by the 2007 smoking ban.

Although Car Share's most famous participant is Peter Kay, it really doesn't belong to him. As mentioned above, it was Reid and Coleman's idea, although Kay and co-star Sian Gibson contribute to the scripts, and it would, admittedly, be difficult to imagine the series without them.

Gibson was largely unknown before the series aired. She first met Kay when they studied together at Salford University; he later cast her in Comedy Lab, That Peter Kay Thing, Phoenix Nights and Britain's Got the Pop Factor... It was she who brought the initial scripts to Kay, but hadn't expected to appear in it until he asked her to get involved – in fact, she hadn't auditioned for any acting roles for a year, and was working in a call

centre instead.

If anything, Gibson is the real star of the show. It's turned her into a star, offering her a chance to demonstrate her not inconsiderable comedic talents – it can only be a matter of time before she has her own vehicle (pardon the pun).

She's certainly thrilled to be back in the passenger seat: "I'm really excited that Car Share is coming back. We had so much fun making the first series and I can't wait to be Kayleigh Kitson again."

Kayleigh is, of course, a promotions rep at the store where John works, and they were thrown together by a scheme encouraging car sharing between co-workers.

Although Kay is used to success, even he was surprised by how well the show was received: "The success of the first series has been completely overwhelming," he says.

The end of the previous run saw the duo grow ever-closer, and there was a hint of romance in the air. Will they be an item when we meet up with them again?



Peter Kay's Car Share, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

Rock The Musical will be wowing the masses, and there's a performance from Matthew Bourne's The Red Shoes.

WEDNESDAY
Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience BBC2, 10pm

New series. The presenter returns to try out more alternative careers, and begins by taking to the streets of Cwmbran to learn the business of selling houses. Although we know Rhod has the gift of the gab, Gavin, his new mentor, believes happy people sell, placing extra pressure on the grumpy comedian. Will Rhod's unique approach prove to be an asset in the high-octane sales environment and make him employee of the month, or will he have the potential home buyers running scared?

THURSDAY
The World According to Kids BBC2, 8pm

New series. Children aged between six and 11 from across the UK are equipped with cameras to reveal what they really think of the world, while a number of challenges offer an intimate insight into how

they think. In the opening show, children from a debating club in Bradford, a pony club in Berkshire and a drama class in Gloucester explore their feelings of love and hate. Eight-year-old Abigail discusses her parents' impending wedding. Daniel is looking forward to seeing his father – who has been posted overseas with the Army – and Edmund just loves to hate his little sister.

FRIDAY
Last Days of Jesus Channel 5, 6.05pm

Back in 2004, gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion formed the inspiration for Mel Gibson's film, The Passion of the Christ. The movie sparked enormous controversy for how it portrayed Jesus' death, but piecing together what happened during his final week is a task that has puzzled scholars for



Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast, Friday, Channel 5, 8pm

centuries. This documentary asks what could have triggered the crucifixion, and reveals the events that may have sparked Jesus' religious movement, including the death of John the Baptist and an increasing resentment among the people towards Rome. It also examines how power was shifting in the highest reaches of the Roman empire.

Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast Channel 5, 8pm

The presenter reaches the North Yorkshire Moors and takes to the skies for a bird's-eye view of the journey ahead from the cockpit of a glider from the Sutton Bank gliding club. Back on the ground, he admires the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey and learns the tale of power and greed that eventually brought down the monastery. In the orchards of Ampleforth Abbey, where rare heritage varieties are grown to produce juice and cider, Tony discovers a secret that evokes vivid memories of his childhood.

Lethal Weapon ITV, 9pm

As Riggs and Murtaugh examine the murder of one of LA's fashion expeditors, they follow a trail of evidence that leads them to a dangerous underground investigation led by the DEA. Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans star.

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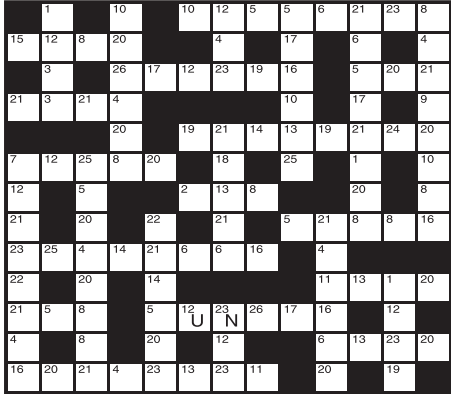
*All prices are subject to VAT

BRAIN GYM

No.424

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

K	P	Z	I	F	G	A	W	D	R	H	J	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	T	E	U	M	N	B	X	V	C	L	S	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

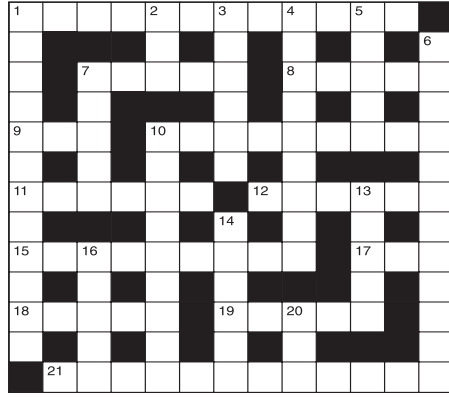
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. First job involves race at the beginning (8,4)
7. Snake on street gets crow (5)
8. The vehicle will travel as freight (5)
9. Where part of the foot points? (3)
10. Where a prisoner's feelings are registered? (5,4)
11. A knotty problem when medicine is missing (6)
12. Could become silent to give ear (6)
15. Gains fare for travelling on the ocean (9)
17. Vapour given off in making a simple substance (3)
18. No lag lengthwise (5)
19. Animal to take the wheel (5)
21. Give exercise to show practice follows preaching (3,2,7)

Down

1. Filming leading lady race at the beginning (8,4)
2. Beverage made from waste apples (3)
3. Character of wicked aunt again shown (6)
4. Choose to get in wrong set when supporting strike (9)
5. Be useful and set ball in play (5)
6. Strong, ill disturbed one is no moss gatherer (7,5)
7. About fifty become more flexible and mix well (5)
10. Got a snail to show sentimental feeling (9)
13. Stripes not on an NCO's uniform (5)
14. It's out to take to court for material (6)
16. No ale when unaccompanied (5)
20. A long time in the rain (3)



Quick Clues:

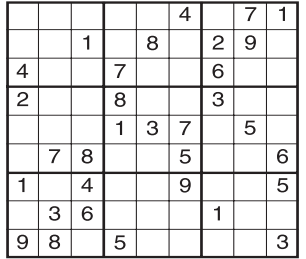
Across

1. Heartbroken (12)
7. Black (5)
8. Collier (5)
9. Trap (3)
10. Indifference (9)
11. Unmask (6)
12. Powerful (6)
15. Withdrew (9)
17. Reverential fear (3)
18. Dense (5)
19. Likeness (5)
21. Reinforced (12)

Down

1. Break up (12)
2. Globe (3)
3. Dictation (6)
4. In layers (9)
5. Strained (5)
6. Sinned (12)
7. Establish (3,2)
10. Liberate (9)
13. Declaim (5)
14. Twine (6)
16. Corrupt (5)
20. Tree (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	8	1	7	9	4	5	3
5	3	4	2	6	8	9	7	1
1	7	9	3	5	4	8	2	6
6	8	1	4	9	5	7	3	2
3	2	5	7	6	1	4	8	9
4	9	7	6	3	2	5	1	8
8	5	3	9	1	6	2	4	7
9	1	2	8	4	7	3	6	5
7	4	6	5	2	3	1	8	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Advance; 8 Osiers; 9 Avance; 10 Filter; 11 Detour; 12 Negative; 18 Medicine; 20 Groove; 21 Plates; 22 Intense; 23 Entree; 24 Seconds. Down: 1 Roofing; 2 Vintage; 3 Ardent; 5 Dividend; 6 Aerate; 7 Cactus; 13 Immersed; 14 Distort; 15 Measles; 16 Fringe; 17 Teller; 19 Island.
QUICK - Across: 4 Dispute; 8 Emblem; 9 Assault; 10 Foeman; 11 Accent; 12 Devotion; 18 Free-will; 20 Debate; 21 Latent; 22 Javelin; 23 Person; 24 Century. Down: 1 Perfidy; 2 Observe; 3 Tenant; 5 Instance; 6 Prance; 7 Talent; 13 Inferior; 14 Disease; 15 Blatant; 16 Decade; 17 Patent; 19 Elated.

Quiz

1. What was captured from Spain by admiral George Rooke in 1704?
2. In which sport is the annual Stanley Cup contested?
3. With which instrument is Keith Jarrett associated?
4. Which Bond film features a Louis Armstrong hit song?
5. What do the letters UHT stand for?
6. Of which country is Karachi the largest city?
7. In Greek mythology, who tried to bring Eurydice back from the dead?
8. Niacin belongs to which group of vitamins?
9. Which dog was first bred as the 'imperial lion dog'?
10. Which English garden designer coined the term 'landscape gardening'?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Hendrik Verwoerd; 2 Trampolining; 3 Carson City; 4 A deer; 5 George Martin; 6 Literature; 7 Lincolnshire; 8 Thomas Edison; 9 The RAC Rally; 10 Vaclav Havel.
Niner: NOURISHED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3755478
48925
7817371645

gives a bad person,
gives a good person,
gives a person.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Note that new Tenerife cool vibe

TENERIFE'S sleepy landscape is changing. If you head to the island, you may need to pack your party heels to investigate the island's cool new vibe. . .

Eyeing up Elton John's multi-coloured feathery showman costume and a skimpy gold Britney Spears number, I wonder if I've underdressed for dinner.

These 100-plus pieces of memorabilia are all part of the furniture at Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife, where music legends are brought to life at every turn. Tracy Chapman lyrics line the wall, countless iconic instruments dangle from ceilings, and even the disabled toilet sign has been tweaked to carry a guitar and 'rock on' hand symbol.

HRH Tenerife opened on the sunny southern coast near Adeje late last year, and true to its name, it's rocking the sleepy side of Tenerife as we know it. Think live gigs and DJ sessions with a set list to rival Ibiza, played out on a 5,000-capacity stage boasting a view of the Atlantic.

Music makers can upgrade their DIY jam sessions in the Rock Royalty penthouse suites, or dial in room service for a pop-up studio Fender electric guitar and amp (headphones provided so you don't wake the neighbours).

OBSESSED

Popstar Shakira's T-shirt is displayed right outside my hotel room and I become obsessed with a Beatles photography exhibit – a collection of 11 super-cool vacation snaps from 1963 taken in Tenerife before the band rocketed to fame. A month later, Please Please Me went to number one for 30 weeks.

We experience the hotel's first ever monthly Children Of The 80s open-air night where we dance (jacket-free in December) to live performances of Black Box's Ride

Time to relax at the lovely pool bar at Hard Rock



Dancing along at opening night of Children of the 80s



on Time and C+C Music Factory's Gonna Make You Sweat in a sea of neon leotards and OTT Eighties wigs. It doesn't feel anything like the Tenerife my mum told me about. . .

Tenerife's southern coast revamp has seen a boost to its nightlife in recent years, with hotspots like the lively Monkey Beach Club and the chic Papagayo Beach Club, both at Troya Beach where you can watch the Canarian sunset with cocktails – and then party on after-dark.

But it isn't all dancing 'til the small hours in Tenerife. On our visit, we blow away the morning-after hangover

blues with a visit to the breathtaking Teide National Park, where we explore the stark volcanic landscape that attracts five million visitors per year. So good in fact, it's been the backdrop for films like Clash of the Titans and Fast & Furious 6.

My head for heights is challenged when we climb 3,718 metres above sea level in a cable car practically to the summit of Mount Teide, Spain's highest peak, where Tenerife's temperatures suddenly drop, along with the air pressure. The trade-off is the breathtaking, Instagram-worthy views. The scene back at HRH

Tenerife isn't all monochrome mosaic pools with underwater music (though that is pretty epic). Beach fans will find both volcanic black sand and soft white sand in the secluded surrounding bays, if you ever want a break from the hotel's playlist.

Tenerife's newest uber-hotel (two tower blocks bathed in flickering lights at night) is different to its global sister hotels, insists Matt Watts, director of music and marketing for Hard Rock International: "It's not 'in your face' like our Vegas hotel. The vibe is more feel-good and subdued." LISA HAYNES

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

27
The Chronicle Thursday, April 6, 2017

Executive family home has corner plot on popular site

An executive modern detached family home, 11 Walton Heath, is on the popular Turnberry Development in Bloxwich.

With stand-out features including four double bedrooms and new A-rated windows and a re-fitted oak kitchen and utility room, it is for sale through Goodchilds at £275,000.

Being beautifully presented, it is positioned on a corner plot, having a driveway, a private rear garden and a generous side access, suitable for parking further vehicles.

Internally the property is very well presented throughout and comprises of a lounge, a dining room, a fitted solid oak kitchen and utility room, a guest WC and an integral garage. To the first floor are four generous bedrooms, the master having an en-suite bathroom. This home also has a double glazed porch.

In more detail the entrance hallway has wooden flooring, stairs to the first floor and a guest cloakroom/WC with tiled flooring. The lounge is spacious, having a bay window, gas fireplace, wooden flooring and doors opening to the dining room. The dining room has French doors opening to the patio. Equipped with solid oak units, the kitchen has tiled flooring, a recently upgraded Ideal Logic boiler, a new double glazed door to the garden and a door into the garage.

Off the first floor landing, bedroom one has built-in wardrobes and a door to the en-suite bathroom. This is fitted with a white suite comprising a low level WC, wash hand basin and a bath with a shower over. Bedroom two is a double bedroom with built-in wardrobes and laminate flooring. Both bedrooms three and four are also doubles.

The bathroom has a white suite with a low level WC, wash hand basin and corner bath.

The garage has an up and over door and a door to the utility room. Outside, the rear garden is enclosed and has a paved patio area, a lawned garden, timber storage shed, side access on both sides of the property with potential for further parking/storage of vehicles.

BLOXWICH £275,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds

TEL: 01922 711444

EMAIL: bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com

KEY FEATURES

Executive detached family home

Two reception rooms

Solid oak kitchen & utility room

Four generous bedrooms

En-suite bathroom to the master



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Unique six-bedroomed property has been extended

A much-improved, extended and unique six-bedroomed detached family home, 24 Glen Close, Walsall, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Redstones at £399,995. This splendid family home briefly comprises a reception hall, an extended lounge, a sitting room, an

WALSALL

£399,995

extended L-shaped kitchen/diner, a guest WC, a ground floor bedroom with an en-suite, five first floor bedrooms (master with an en-suite

which includes a double spa bath), a family shower room, front and rear gardens and off-road parking for several vehicles.

The extended L-shaped kitchen/diner has a door to the ground floor bedroom.

Call 01922 235350.



Property Auction

01543 505454 www.bootandson.co.uk

AUCTION

Monday 10th April 2017

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Address	Wednesday 22nd & 29th March 5th April	Saturday 18th & 25th March 1st & 8th April
39 Abbey Street, Hednesford	10.30am	10.30am
79 Sharon Way, Hednesford	11.00am	11.00am
103 Stafford Street, Heath Hayes	11.30am	11.30am
Land to rear 167 High Street, Chase Terrace	12.00pm	12.00pm
75 High Street, Cheslyn Hay	12.45pm	12.45pm
Land to rear of 167 Watling Street, Churchbridge	By attending on site with Catalogue to hand	
Land Adj 9 Whitgreave Lane, Rugeley		

* Viewings for 75 High Street - Viewing of vacant flats indicated above
 Shops and occupied flat by appointment with auctioneers



LOT 1
LAND REAR OF 19 WATLING STREET, CHURCHBRIDGE, CANNOCK, WS11 3JY FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Freehold residential building land with benefit for two schemes
 ♦ Scheme 1 - Four 2 bedroom semi detached house
 ♦ Scheme 2 - Four 2 bedroom detached bungalows
 ♦ Convenient for facilities locally and at Cannock Town Centre
GUIDE PRICE £200,000-£250,000



LOT 2
39 ABBEY STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4BB FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Detached bungalow in popular residential area
 ♦ Standing on relatively deep plot
 ♦ In need to some improvement
 ♦ Predominantly double glazed
 ♦ Gas fired central heating
 ♦ EPC rating E (65)
GUIDE PRICE £100,000+



LOT 3
75 HIGH STREET, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7AD FREEHOLD INVESTMENT WITH PART VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Currently producing £10,300 p.a. (including £1,000 p.a. when fully let)
 ♦ Prominently located mixed residential/commercial investment
 ♦ Two ground floor lock up shops
 ♦ 3 Self contained flats
GUIDE PRICE £175,000+



LOT 4
79 SHARON WAY, HEDNESFORD, WS12 2NN LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Semi detached house in need of modernisation
 ♦ Lounge & dining room
 ♦ Kitchen
 ♦ Three bedrooms
 ♦ Bathroom
 ♦ Part double glazed
 ♦ EPC rating F (21)
GUIDE PRICE £70,000 - £80,000

LOT 5
LAND ADJACENT TO 9 WHITGREAVE LANE, RUGELEY, WS15 1NG
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Residential Freehold building land
 ♦ With outline planning permission for 2 No three bedroomed dwellings
 ♦ Approximate dimensions:
 Area 380m² or thereabouts
GUIDE PRICE £80,000 to £100,000

LOT 6
103 STAFFORD STREET, HEATH HAYES, WS12 2EN FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Semi detached house
 ♦ In need of refurbishment
 ♦ Three bedrooms
 ♦ Gas fired central heating
 ♦ All windows double glazed
 ♦ EPC rating E (52)
GUIDE PRICE £120,000+

LOT 7
BUILDING LAND REAR OF 167 HIGH STREET, CHASETOWN, WS7 3XL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
 ♦ Freehold parcel of building land
 ♦ Having planning permission for the erection of three pairs of 3 bedroom semi detached houses
 ♦ Site area - 0.49 acre of therabouts
GUIDE PRICE £300,000+



Four-bedroomed house has established garden



This splendidly appointed detached family residence off Stafford Road in Stoney Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall, comes with four generous bedrooms.

It is for sale through Skitts at £375,000.

Its accommodation also includes three reception rooms, a study room and a utility cupboard, a concrete

BLOXWICH

£375,000

print driveway with parking for many vehicles and an established rear garden.

It also has gas central heating and UPVC double glazed windows.

The selling agents are expecting a lot of interest to be shown in this delightful and highly attractive property, and so are urging interested parties to book a viewing fast.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact the selling agents Skitts on 01922 478104.

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<p>UPPER PENN</p>  <p>GREAT HALL GROVE, W'TON Five Bedroom Executive Detached, Lounge & Separate Study, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, En-Suite to both Master & Bedroom 2, Office/Den, Double Garage & Off Road Parking. £665,000</p>	<p>SHARESHILL</p>  <p>HILTON LANE, STAFFORDSHIRE Four Bed Detached Cottage, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen With Additional Dining Area, Orangery, En-Suites To Master & Bedroom 2, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Landscaped Gardens, Stunning Views. Viewing Strongly Advised. £450,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p>  <p>MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Impressive Three Bed Detached Bungalow, 25ft Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower To Master, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. £270,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p>  <p>HEBBDON GROVE, WILLENHALL Four/Five Bed Detached, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, Play Room/Gym, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower To Master, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewing Advised. £270,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p>  <p>SHERLOCK CL, WILLENHALL Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Impressive 17ft x 12ft Conservatory, Kitchen/Diner With Fitted Appliances, Family Bathroom, Gated Driveway, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Viewing Strongly Advised! £269,995</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p>  <p>MAREE GROVE, WILLENHALL Four Bed Detached House, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., En-Suite Shower Room To Master, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Strongly Advised. Offers Over £235,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p>  <p>POOLES LANE, WILLENHALL Three/Four Bed Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room/Fourth Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Strongly Advised. £220,000</p>	<p>THE MANOR</p>  <p>BANK STREET, WILLENHALL Four Bedroom Period Semi Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Impressive Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Ground Floor Shower Room, Music/Hobby Room, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Viewing Essential. Offers In The Region</p>
<p>BENTLEY</p>  <p>SILVERSTONE CLOSE, WALSALL Extended Four Bed Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Sitting Room, Guest W.C. & Shower Room, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Driveway Parking, Front And Rear Garden, Viewing Advised! £189,995</p>	<p>RIVERPOINT</p>  <p>RIVERBANK ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Open Plan Into Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room To Master, Double Glazing & Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage, Viewing Advised! £175,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p>  <p>INGLEDEU CLOSE, WALSALL Extended Three Bed Link Detached, Lounge, Extended Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing, Carport & Driveway. £164,995</p>	<p>COUNTY BRIDGE</p>  <p>YORK AVENUE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Viewing Advised. £150,000</p>	<p>EASTFIELD</p>  <p>BROOKLANDS PARADE, WOLVERHAMPTON Newly Built Three Bed Detached, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C., Modern Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Solar Panels, Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE. Offers Over £140,000</p>	<p>WEDNESFIELD</p>  <p>HYLSTONE CRESCENT, WEDNESFIELD Extended Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Spacious Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower/Wet Room, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden. £135,000</p>	<p>QUEENS LEA</p>  <p>QUEENS LEA, WILLENHALL Three Bed End Town House, 19ft Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Covered Outbuildings With Storage, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden. Offers Over £125,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p>  <p>ASHMORE LAKE ROAD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Victorian Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & 26ft Heating, Off Road Parking & 26ft Garage, Generous Rear Garden, Viewing Advised! £119,995</p>
<p>QUEENS LEA</p>  <p>SHEPHERD DRIVE, WILLENHALL Two Bed Semi Detached, 20ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Covered Outbuildings, Guest W.C., First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Great FTB! Offers In The Region Of</p>	<p>COALPOOL</p>  <p>ALDERLEY CRESCENT, WALSALL Modern Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Ideal FTB or B.T.L. £100,000</p>	<p>ASHMORE LAKE</p>  <p>ASHMORE LAKE ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Generous Rear Garden, Ideal FTB, Viewing Advised. Offers Over £95,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p>  <p>GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Victorian Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Rear Garden, Tenanted At £550 PCM, Viewing Advised. OIEO £90,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p>  <p>VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Terraced, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great FTB Or B.T.L. £90,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p>  <p>REGENT STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed End Town House, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden, Access To Shared Parking, Ideal BTL. £79,995</p>	<p>NEW INVENTION</p>  <p>ESSINGTON RD, WILLENHALL One Bed Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Secure Gated Parking, Communal Gardens, Great Alternative To A Bungalow. Must View! £72,500</p>	<p>LODGE FARM</p>  <p>STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat, Allocated & Visitors Parking, Spacious Lounge, Ample Storage Throughout, Fitted Kitchen, Excellent Alternative To A Bungalow, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating. £70,000</p>

Willenhall 01902 606595

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Two-bed bungalow is new to the market

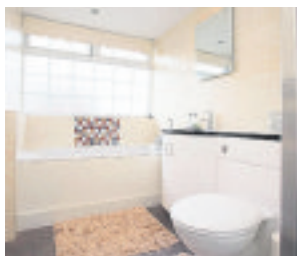
WILLENHALL
£160,000

New to the property market, this two-bedroomed bungalow in the sought-after location of Perth Road, Summer Hayes, Willenhall, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at offers over £160,000 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a carport, a driveway and front and rear gardens.

In more detail this home features a well-designed and well-stocked rear garden, which includes a large terrace/patio, ideal for outdoor entertaining.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, please contact Skitts on 01902 631151 or visit www.skitts.net



Attractive family home has a tasteful decor and corner plot

WALSALL
£289,950

<<<

This generous detached family home on a corner plot in Norton Lane, Walsall, comes with a detached double garage and kennels.

Deceptively spacious and beautifully presented, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £289,950, possibly available with no chain. Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, a through hallway, a guest WC, a generous lounge, a dining kitchen, a dining room, a guest WC, three double bedrooms, an en-suite and a family bathroom. Externally there are generous gardens to three sides, two driveways and a double detached garage.

The lounge has a window to the front, a feature fireplace with a gas fire inset and French doors opening to the garden. The dining room also has a window to the front, as well as a storage cupboard.

Contact Webbs on 01543 468846.



T: 01922 235 350 • www.redstones.co.uk

Farmhouse Way Willenhall



Offers around £89,950

A three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, guest W.C., three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Tasker Street Walsall



Offers around £174,995

A spacious 4 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of gas central heating and no upward chain. This good size property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen, cellar, family bathroom, four bedrooms guest W.C., rear garden with detached garage with rear access. Energy rating E.

Southmead Way Walsall



Offers around £85,000

A modern two bedroom second floor apartment having the benefit of fresh redecoration throughout, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms with the master having en suite shower room and allocated parking. Energy rating B.

Forrest Avenue Essington



Offers around £160,000

●●●MUST BE VIEWED, SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION●●● A rare opportunity to purchase an improved three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Located in a pleasant cul-de-sac over looking fields to the rear and further comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, three bedrooms, family bathroom, garage (used as an office), rear gardens, block paved driveway for several vehicles. Energy rating D.

Pargeter Street Walsall



Offers around £100,000

A well presented, spacious two bedroom, end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, open plan through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, two double bedrooms and rear garden. Awaiting energy rating.

Abingdon Way Walsall



Offers around £200,000

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Crown Court Victoria Mews



Offers around £114,995

A well presented two bedroom modern semi detached family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and allocated parking space. Energy rating D.

St. Peters Lane Solihull



Offers around £675,000

A superb 3 bedroom, detached bungalow set in a lovely rural location whilst having the benefit of triple glazing, gas central heating, air conditioning and no upward chain. This delightful and spacious property is located near to the M42 motorway, the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham International Airport and train station. The property further comprises, good size L-shaped lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, utility room, reception hall, guest W.C., family bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, study, rear entrance lobby, impressive well maintained gardens, enclosed patio area, ample off road parking for several vehicles, double garage. Awaiting energy rating

Mehdi Road Oldbury



Offers around £86,995

●●●IDEAL FOR INVESTOR OR FIRST TIME BUYER●●● A two bedroom modern, ground floor apartment in a popular residential development. The accommodation comprises of a reception hall, open plan lounge/dining/kitchen with French doors leading to rear garden, fitted kitchen and family bathroom. The property also benefits from no upward chain, double glazing, electric central heating and allocated parking space. Energy rating C.

Segundo Road Walsall



Offers around £115,000

A modern two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord as the property is currently tenanted till April 2017 with the tenant paying £499pcm. The property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating D.



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- Extended Semi
- Kitchen
- Hallway
- Utility Room, WC
- Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms
- Dining Room
- Driveway, Garage

\$139,950

REDUCED

GREAT WYRLEY
SUNBEAM DRIVE



- Maisonette
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner
- Parking
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- No Chain

OFFERS OVER \$90,000

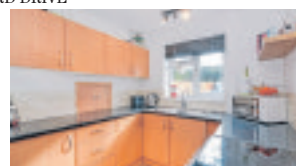

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NEW

WILLENHALL
SHEPHERD DRIVE



- amenities, shops and schools. Briefly comprising; through hallway, lounge diner, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally there is a
- generous landscaped gardens and driveway providing ample off road parking. Early Viewing Essential

\$120,000

NEW

WILLENHALL
VICTORIA STREET



- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Kitchen,
- Utility Area,
- Guest WC,
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room.
- Courtyard.

\$79,950

NEW

GREAT WYRLEY
WALSALL ROAD



- Spacious Family Home
- Versatile Accommodation
- Generous Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Fabulous Kitchen/diner
- 4 Bedrooms
- Spacious Bathroom
- Rear Garden

\$260,000 OFFERS OVER

CHESLYN HAY
THE HOLLIES



- Outstanding Detached
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Utility Room, WC
- 4 Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite
- Double Garage

\$385,000

NEW

WALSALL
MINEWOOD CLOSE



- Stunning Extended Detached
- Kitchen Diner,
- Generous lounge,
- Conservatory,
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Shower Room.
- low Maintenance Garden
- Block Paved Driveway.
- INTERNAL VIEWING ESSENTIAL

\$194,950

NEW

PARK ROAD BLOXWICH
POPLAR COURT



Modern Detached
through hallway, lounge diner, kitchen, dining room, guest WC, four bedrooms, ensuite to master and family bathroom.
Externally there is an integral garage,

driveway and landscaped gardens.
Internal Viewing Advised.

\$239,950

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Walsall
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Victoria Terrace, Walsall

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Superb Views
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£275,000



Waters Keep, Leamore

- Lounge with Bay window
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Ensuite to Master Bedroom
- Downstairs W.C.
- French doors to rear garden
- Three Spacious Bedrooms

£161,500



Walton Heath, Turnberry Estate

- Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Four Generous Bedrooms
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Integral Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Great Transport Links
- EPC - D

£275,000



Formby Way, Turnberry Estate

- Detached Residence
- Excellent Condition Throughout
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Turnberry Development
- Converted Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential
- Great School Catchment
- EPC - E

£240,000



Birmingham Road, Walsall

- Three Storey Semi-Detached
- Five Generous Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Conservatory
- Original Features Throughout
- Cellar with plumbing for appliances
- Off Road Parking to the Front
- Double Garage to the rear
- Beautifully Presented Property
- EPC - E

£350,000



Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Modern Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge with Porcelain Tiled Floor
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- EPC - C

£155,000



Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £136,500



Alumwell Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Off Road Parking
- Porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Friendly Rear Garden
- Close to Alumwell Primary School
- Easy Access to the M6 Motorway
- EPC - D

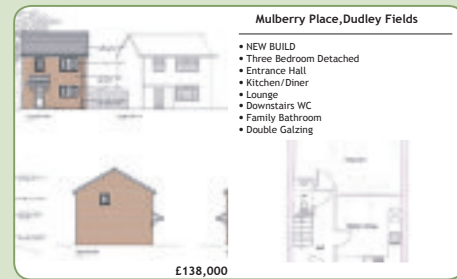
£129,950



Lister Road, Beechdale

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Popular Area of Beechdale
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-To-Let
- Close to several infant & primary schools
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - C

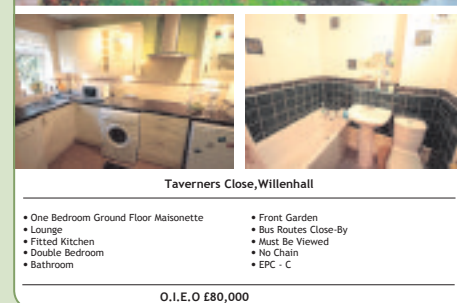
O.I.E.O £105,000



Mulberry Place, Dudley Fields

- NEW BUILD
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing

£138,000



Taverners Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Front Garden
- Bus Routes Close-By
- Must Be Viewed
- No Chain
- EPC - C

O.I.E.O £80,000



Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £118,995



Foster Street, Bloxwich

- Victorian Terrace
- Built in 1904
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-To-Let
- EPC - E

£90,000



Star Close, Bentley

- Cash Buyers Only
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- Modern Decor
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- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC - E

O.I.E.O £87,000

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Superb new properties on offer

One of the West Midlands' most respected building companies, Cameron Homes, is providing some superb new properties at desirable locations throughout the region this year and has just opened its latest exciting development.

The long-established Staffordshire-based firm launched its Coney Lodge scheme in Burntwood last week.

Situated off Rugeley Road, this is a collection of eight four-bedroom luxury homes.

They have rural-style elevations, featuring striking glass-fronted hallways and landings and some include carefully-designed open plan kitchen/dining/family areas with bi-fold doors giving uninterrupted views of Gentleshaw Common.

Luxury

And like every Cameron Homes property, they include a beautiful bathroom, an inviting master bedroom and a contemporary kitchen with integrated appliances – all finished to a luxury specification. This is set to be one of Cameron's busiest years, with the firm building a wide range of high quality and carefully-designed residences in other superb settings.

It will be an exciting time too for the many people who move into a beautiful new property.

And by using one of the company's most successful sales incentives the move can be a hassle-free reality.

Andy Gough, sales and marketing director of Cameron, explains that the Part Exchange scheme is a popular way to purchase a new property.

"Part Exchange, where we buy a customer's existing home, works very well, with many people taking advantage of it, and we expect it to be just as popular at our new schemes."

"As a family-owned company we pride ourselves not only on the high standard of our properties but also on our excellent customer care and we have a range of other ways to help,



Debbie Sanghera, right, of Cameron Homes' Keepers Cross development in Tividale presents residents Becky Whitehead and Chris Bullock with welcome flowers and a gift for baby Albert

such as offering financial advice and guidance," he says. Cameron has several developments where the Part Exchange incentive is available.

At Keepers Cross in Tividale, the company is providing a contemporary collection of 54 two, three and four-bedroom homes with excellent links to Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Bourne Fields is Cameron's flagship development, featuring an elegant collection of

14 remarkable five-bedroom residences at an enviable address. With a premium specification and a desirable location between Aldridge and Streetly, Bourne Fields is the epitome of luxury living. All 14 homes feature everything you'd expect from a showcase Cameron collection, including a stunning kitchen, a sumptuous master suite and spectacular open plan living spaces.

Cameron's new development in Hill Ridware,

a small village near Cannock, will be called Austen Grange. A total of 48 houses will be provided, including affordable homes, and the designs will range from two to five bedrooms, detached and semi detached styles.

A former retail site in Chasetown High Street is being regenerated, with a collection of two and three-bedroom properties being launched at Chapel Court later this year.

And an exciting development is under way at

Barton under Needwood. Lakeside Apartments features 54 two-bedroom apartments offering the highest standard of specification, security and style.

With restaurants, bars and delicatessens on one side and woodland, lakes and towpaths on the other, life at Lakeside Apartments allows you to explore a new side of life every day. The first phase of apartments is on sale now.

Visit www.cameronhomes.co.uk



Hawkestone House at Bourne Fields



One of the properties at Coney Lodge



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*Available on selected plots.



Team expansion for housebuilder

With a current turnover of over £10 million, and with a forecast increase to £50 million within five years, local company Tatton Hall Homes Limited is expanding their administrative team.

Viewing this also as an opportunity to support young people in their community, the company has chosen to recruit a Modern Apprenticeship, Sam Morgan from Halfpenny Green.

Sam said: "While studying for my A levels at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, I attended an 'Insight into Accountancy' session which confirmed accountancy as my chosen career. I also heard about accountancy apprenticeships which give formal study plus on-the-job training to consolidate the college learning."



Sam Morgan, Modern Apprenticeship

"On completion of my A levels I joined Kidderminster College's apprenticeship programme and with their help found a role as an Advanced Accountancy Apprentice at a Facility Management company."

"Having decided to take the Higher Apprenticeship route, as this leads to a professional qualification, the next step was to seek a role that provided the additional breadth and depth of experience I needed."

In response, Kidderminster College matched Sam to Tatton Hall Homes' apprentice position of Finance Assistant.

Sam added "In this role I work with the Finance Director and receive coaching and experience in all aspects of finance work. Additionally, the approach of the Directors at Tatton Hall Homes is very 'hands on' as they are all closely involved with the day to day



The inside and outside of the showhome at Broadleaf Gardens, Birches Barn Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, WV3 7BJ



operation of the business. Finance at Tatton Hall Homes isn't just about processing pieces of paper; it is learning about the work on site that leads to a payment and also about the local suppliers we aim to support.

"I have joined the company at an exciting time.

"Our first purchasers have recently moved into our new development at Broadleaf Gardens, Bradmore, and having seen the figures behind the move it is rewarding to see

everything fall into place. I really feel this is accountancy in action."

With over 40 years' accountancy experience in the construction industry, Finance Director John Holder is enthusiastic about apprenticeships, having followed a similar career pathway himself.

He said: "Looking ahead, we need to develop and strengthen our middle management team to deal with the challenges of our expansion plans. Sam is an ideal candidate as the

Advanced Apprenticeship has given him an excellent introduction to the world of work and accountancy basics.

"College delivers the technical and professional aspect of Sam's learning but having Sam as part of the business allows for the cascade of experience alongside exposure to the values and ethos of our organisation."

Carl Tatton, Managing Director, added: "Sam is keen to learn, ambitious and has a well-thought out career path. We have benefited

from his enthusiasm and we are pleased to be helping him in gaining his professional qualification".

The company's development known as Broadleaf Gardens is at Birches Barn Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, WV3 7BJ and offers a selection of two, three and four-bedroom homes.

The showhome launches on Saturday and contact details are 01902 341902 or www.tattonhallhomes.co.uk

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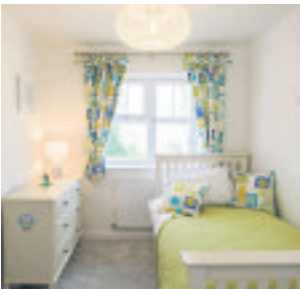
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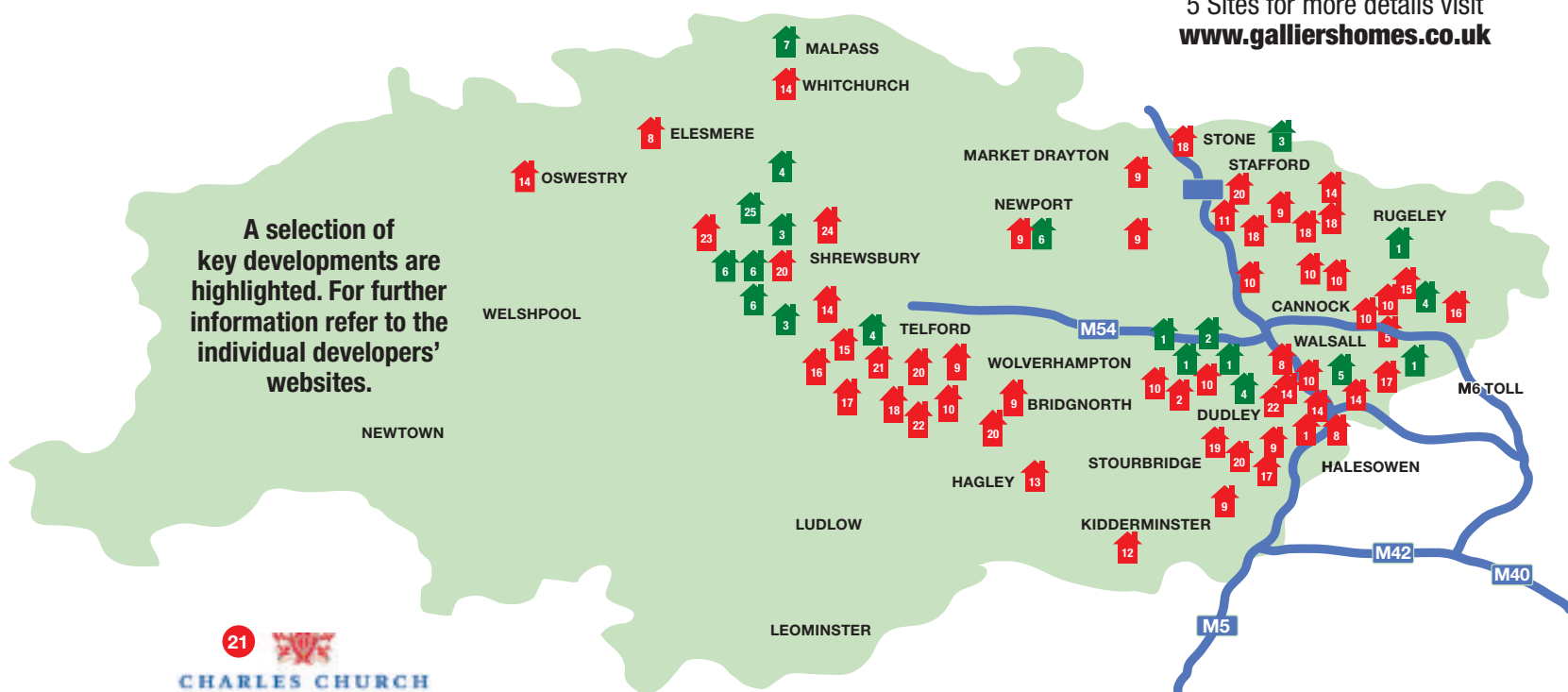


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New and exciting powertrains for the future

Hybrid power to boost performance

When Ford installs a hybrid powertrain in an RS or ST model it will only be done so to boost performance – that’s the bold claim of the brand’s global performance director Dave Pericak.

The man in charge of the Blue Oval’s performance cars across the globe said that the manufacturer was looking at a variety of different technologies to enhance its hot models.

He said: “I think if we electrify performance vehicles, it will be to enhance the performance of those vehicles. You may get a fuel economy benefit as a result, but it won’t be geared towards that, it will be geared towards enhancing performance. Electrification can be used to do that.”

Pericak said that current technology was restricting Ford – but that may change in the future.

“If you’re going to look at electrification, you want to push the boundaries of what you can do today,” he said.

“So, we know we can accelerate a car pretty darn fast with electrification, we can do a lot of things, but we can’t sustain it. The issue is that the technology isn’t ready yet to sustain high levels of performance. You can only get bursts.”

One thing is for sure, though – new and exciting powertrains are key to Ford’s performance future.

Pericak added: “We’re going to be open to all powertrains and all different technologies, and that’s going to be part of how we continue to evolve performance products, get them better and, at the same time, improve fuel efficiency and CO2 emissions, so we’ll see where we go.

“We’ve got a lot in the works.”

Berlingo Multispace adds electric option to the range

As the benchmark leisure activity vehicle for over 20 years, the Citroën Berlingo has consistently exceeded the expectations of its customers.

The new E-Berlingo Multispace keeps all of the original car’s practicality and modular design, and adds the efficiency and driving pleasure of an electric vehicle.

With a range of up to 106 miles, the new model meets the needs of private customers and businesses alike, with easy charging and all the benefits of electric mobility.

The Citroën Berlingo passenger car is now available with an electric drivetrain, in the form of the E-Berlingo Multispace. The new model offers a refined, zero-emission driving experience and sets new standards in the sector for peace-of-mind and ease of use.

This new addition to the Berlingo Multispace range retains the versatile design, space, comfort and essential equipment that has made the conventionally-powered models such a benchmark in the leisure activity vehicle segment. The new E-Berlingo Multispace extends Citroën’s electric vehicle range, which already includes the C-Zero, E-Mehari and Berlingo Electric LCV.

Swiftly

Powered by a compact and high-performance permanent magnet synchronous motor, the new vehicle accelerates swiftly and smoothly. The refined and comfortable ride of this versatile car is designed to meet the demands of active families, whilst adding all the advantages of an electric drivetrain.

The new vehicle’s lithium-ion battery packs are positioned in the subframe either side of the rear axle, which means the cabin layout and boot volume are retained. The E-Berlingo Multispace has a modular design that can accommodate up to five, or larger loads when the seats in row 2 are folded away. The boot volume is amongst the best in class at 675 litres with five people on-board, increasing to 3,000 litres with the second row of seats folded away. The row two seats can also be removed completely to create a fully flat load area. Access to the vehicle is easy with two sliding side doors, plus a large rear tailgate. The tailgate has a window that opens independently, making loading the boot.

The E-Berlingo is perfect for urban and suburban use, and professional applications where there is easy access to charging points. The new model offers all the benefits associated with a 100% electric vehicle,



The new E-Berlingo Multispace will be available in the UK in the autumn

including environmental advantages, low running costs, plus taxation and parking benefits. The new E-Berlingo Multispace is equipped with the same proven electric drivetrain as the Berlingo Electric LCV, which is already in service with numerous fleet customers across Europe.

With a range of 106 miles, measured on the NEDC cycle, the E-Berlingo Multispace is perfectly adapted to consumer use – the majority of European motorists drive less than 60 miles each day.

The E-Berlingo Multispace can be re-charged to 50% of its total range in 15 minutes or to 80% of capacity in 30 minutes from a dedicated rapid charge point. This uses the vehicle’s D/C rapid charging port (CHAdeMO). The standard charge time is 8 hours using the 16 A, Type 2 cable or as little as 10 hours from a domestic 3-pin socket. The motor also provides regenerative braking when the vehicle is slowing down, helping to re-charge the batteries and reduce brake wear. The E-Berlingo develops 67hp (49kW) and has 200Nm of torque

immediately available. The two high-capacity lithium-ion battery packs, with a combined rating of 22.5kWh, lower the car’s centre of gravity for even more dynamic stability.

For an even more user-friendly experience, the new E-Berlingo Multispace comes with remote-controlled functions for use via a smartphone. These functions include a facility that allows the driver to pre-heat or cool the interior prior to accessing the vehicle. The driver can also remotely check their car’s battery charge level.

There is also an innovative eco-driving assistance programme, which helps the driver adopt the most economical driving style to optimise range. The navigation system displays speed limits and traffic information, as well as charging points that can be reached by the vehicle based on the remaining range.

The E-Berlingo Multispace has lower running costs than an equivalent petrol or diesel Multispace. The traction battery is included in the price and offers peace-of-mind with an 8-year/60,000 mile warranty.

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Aberystwyth from £4995 includes
2017 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970
820579, sales@clarchbay.com

PRE-OWNED CARAVAN with
decking, includes all 2017 site fees,
full 2 month service. Payment
options (T&Cs) available. £17,495.
Call Paul 07960 944721 for details.

REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR SALE! Central Heating and sleeps
8 £17,995. Deposits from 10%. 12
Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07960
944721.

2 BED STATIC CARAVAN for sale
on Seaside holiday park Borth. Full
12 month service, great facilities.
Pet friendly, wi-fi. £11,995. Call
Paul 07960 944721.

sports & leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

METAL DETECTOR, XP Goldmax
Power, with cordless headphones
and pinpoint probe, very good con-
dition. £350 ono. 07771 349216.

holidays

caravan holidays

DOLPHIN CARAVAN PARK, Brean
Somerset. Call 01278 751258
www.dolphincaravanpark.co.uk

3

Home & Services

antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Antiques & Interiors
House Clearances & Collections arranged
at short notice for our monthly auctions
01782 638100

furniture

HYPNOS DOUBLE MATTRESS, as
new, buyer to collect. £400.
Telephone 01889 584974.

TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS,
Andrena, dark oak, round, extend-
able, excellent condition, £50 ono.
0121 502 1695 or 07903 848931.

in your garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxxhwing Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041
or 01922 712184

AT SHEDRITE Potting sheds, log
cabins, summerhouses etc. Willen-
hall Rd WV1 2HA. 01902 450137.

ECKMAN CORDLESS cylinder
mower, as new, battery, charger,
blade sharpener and instruction
manual, £95 ono. 01785 664961.

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN
FACED, only £1.76 inc. VAT.
Featon Building Supplies:
01543 276006.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and
used building materials, upvc doors
and windows 01543 453222.

INTERIOR SIX panel doors, used
but in good condition, one, 2.3, four
2.6, £50 the lot. 01543 472636.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or in-
accuracies on the first day of publica-
tion.

items wanted

A Genuine Lady Buyer!
Cash paid for any amount of Gold
Jewellery, Costume Jewellery ect.
Watches, Coins, Medals,
All memorabilia, Porcelain etc.
Highly Recommended!
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to
carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS

Certified technician &
Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops
and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken
screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers
Autos Fridges Vacs and Microwaves.
Call 07900 578897/07801 746853.

bathrooms

JR Bathrooms
Over 20 years
experience in bathroom &
kitchen installations,
TILING/PLASTERING/
FREE QUOTES
20% off throughout March!
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA
CHECKTRADE.COM

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects
of building. Block paving, plaster-
ing, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 /
07790 286187.

building supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles,
Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York
Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066.
sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-
primed doors fully fitted from £370.
0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY
Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors,
flooring, staircases and refurbis-
hments. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or
just fitted, quality samples brought
to your home, no job too small, free
quotes call Mark 01543 820538 /
07941 619694.

cleaning

SURE CLEAN SOLUTIONS
Domestic &
Commercial Cleaners
For all general cleaning of
Factories, Offices, Houses, Shops, Retail
Parks, Front of shop cleaning.
We supply the cleaning products
and equipment.
Fully insured & staff CRB checked.
01922 334045

electrical services

ALL ELECTRICAL work from a
switch to a rewire. Insured. Free quote
01902 575570 / 07958 627434.

MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK Home
wiring specialist. NICEIC. High
quality local service. Freephone:
0800 211 8398 / 07939 503905

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping,
pruning, hedges trimmed, turf,
patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B Tree Care, Landcpe & Jetwashing Services

- Trees, shrubs and hedges planted.
- Fencing supplied and erected
- Turf supplied and laid
- Stumps treated or removed
- Hedges and shrubs tidied
- All pesticide and fungicide work undertaken.
- Jetwashing of your driveways, walls and brickwork, paths and patios.

FULLY INSURED and safety conscious!
For a free fixed quote call:

01922 449268 or 07786 166856

Garden Rite Garden Services

- Complete Landscape Service
- Patios • Fencing & sheds • Artificial Grass
- Block Paving & Gravel Drives
- FREE Estimates
- All Work Guaranteed

01922 496861
07817 398107
www.garden-rite.co.uk

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Days of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12 noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am extremely
happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"
Michael -
Portway Fencing.

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES

- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced
- Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
- Same Day Service
- Free Quotes
- DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs**

Call: 01902 366855/
07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES, RAILINGS,
etc. Free quotes, also repairs &
fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.
DARLSTON GATES 30 years exp in
supplying/fitting gates and railings.
Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

DAVIES INSTALLATIONS Building
work, plumbing, decking, supply &
fit kitchens and bathrooms. Call:
07793 747829 / 01543 300444.

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE

Full, part and single
rubbish removed.

Garage and
sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece
suites and leather
chesterfields wanted.

01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE

Professional family run business
House clearances, full or part,
also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES
Quick, discreet and professional.
07939 421862 / 01902 410433

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20
years experience. Call 07881
654757 or 01543 373233.

painters / decorators

ADMI Decorating, City and Guilds.
No Job Too Small. OAP Discounts
07855 957935 - 01902 630028.

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience. City &
Guilds approved. Free Quotes.
07913 732786 or 01902 650716.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds /
Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring.
Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

JD PAINTERS & DECORATORS
Over 35 years experience!
Discounts offered for OAP's
Free Quotes
07786 827074

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans.
Drawn and submitted to council.
Tel: 01902 662000 / 07841 654037.
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS: Prepared/submit-
ted. K J Bradley 01902 373248
07792 165767, www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering,
full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls,
stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

**D&C PLASTERING AND RENDER-
ING** Fast, clean, reliable service.
Also building work. Free Quotes
07793 747829 or 01543 300444.

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

plumbers

LAURIE KENNEDY domestic
plumbing, no job too small. Insured.
No call out fee. 07801 345884.

plumbing & heating

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on 07791 319397

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install. Service/ Repair. 01922 660410 or 07540 950588.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A DJ REMOVAL house or one item. Affordable rates, reliable. Call: 01902 652346 or 07912 980177.

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

roofing

ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-5pm.
01902 722447.

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone
(0800) 220 - 729

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 298989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

WOLVERHAMPTON SKIP HIRE
MINI, MIDI & BUILDERS SKIPS WITH DOORS
Established 26 years
Call:
01902 722876

QUICKA SKIPS
Mini, Midi, 6 Yard with doors and Builders.
7 days - Prompt Service
01902 404800 / 07983 580884
www.quickaskips.co.uk

Waste management
SB
Recycling services
01902 459667
0121 558 2120
01543 500 599

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"We are very happy with our Classified Contract within the Express & Star and the enquiries our adverts bring in."

Pally - Quika Skips

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

tiling

CGS TILING
♦ Wall & Floor Tiling
♦ Painting & Decorating
♦ Laminate Flooring
♦ Clean and Reliable
Free Quotes: 07862 297940

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE-UPHOLSTERING OF SOFAS, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

ABANDON NOT!
ESTABLISHED OVER 100 YEARS
E MARSH
Showroom, Elm House
Pountney St, W'con, WY2 4HX
01902 712484/424296

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antique es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA puppy, nine weeks old, smooth haired, all injections, microchipped, £650. 07952 926466.



WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY

needs homes for 9 week old kittens, abandoned in garden

0121 502 5027.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios from £90pw*
Rooms from £65pw*
Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

THREE BED house willenhall, DG, CH, large kitchen, DSS considered with Deposit. 07872 985954.

WALSALL ROOMS in shared house to let, DSS considered, £70pw inc most bills. Call 07825 581676.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

TENANTS WE WANT YOU

We currently have Rooms / Bedsits / Studios and 1 Bedroom Flats available in:
• **Wolverhampton** - within 5 minutes' walk of the city centre
• **Willenhall** - 2 mins from Morrison's, near town centre
• **West Bromwich** - Just off the high street
• **Darlaston** - The Green, near town centre
Good quality accommodation at affordable rents, **ALL INCLUSIVE RENTS AVAILABLE.**
DSS 35+ welcome.
Proof of benefit income required!
Very low deposits starting from £150 to move in
Call 07791 476943 to book your viewing TODAY!
Referral fees also offered if you refer a friend!

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
For Your House CASH
You agree the price, we buy the house.
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs
*subject to terms www.black-countryhomes.co.uk *

Wolverhampton properties
CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO **£25,000** We can buy your house in 2 days
CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
Guaranteed
• Guaranteed offer* • Free solicitors • Terms apply
• Any condition • No fees*
24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822**
01384 226086 Dewmark Homes

pink sell quick
run by women
• No Fees* • Any area*
• Any property • Representations stopped
• Any condition • Deceased estates
• Free confidential service
Call free 24 hours to home **01922 689023**
0800 044 8109
Private Investor
We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid.
Telephone **07756 022973**
straight forward investment solutions

JS PROPERTIES
Properties & Land brought for cash
• Properties for refurbishment
• Properties suitable for auction
• Free valuation and legal
• Houses, Flats and Commercial
• Any circumstance considered
• Completion date to suit
Any property Any area
Call Mr J Moore
07870 120363

WE BUY HOUSES
CALL TONY OR MANDY ON 07792 196806

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED.
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
01922 311 030 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

WE BUY ANY HOUSE
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7 days
0800 246 1047
WE OFFER **£20,000 CASH ADVANCE**
• NO Fees & FREE Solicitors • We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
www.ukfastsale.co.uk

LOOK WE BUY ANY HOUSE
national homeowners helpline.co.uk
in a mess? talk in confidence
we can help
WE PAY MORE ANY AREA ANY CONDITION
24-7 **0800 085 7499**
24-7 **0121 308 7786**

STOP WE PAY MORE!
100% every time* Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Property* Any Condition*
01902 628 047
*subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes
For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

MORE CATEGORIES MORE CLASSIFICATIONS MORE CHOICE
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Local Specialists



7 Jobs

voluntary posts

VOLUNTEERS WANTED To help out at a supported accommodation for vulnerable women in Walsall. Female applicants only please. Tel: 01922 648401

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



CITROEN DS5
HDI 160, 2012, 40k, fsh, immaculate, black, abs, long MoT, cruise control, half leather, panoramic roof, reversing camera, 18 inch alloys.
£8,950 ono.
07877 536948.



FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC
2012, 15,600 Miles, white, abs, e/w, air bag, E/M, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, cent lock, one owner, pas, tax, Alloys, CD, front/rear heated screen,
£6,795
07505 358276

IMMACULATE
MINI COOPER COUPE
1.6, Automatic, 61 reg, FSH, MoT till November,
Lady owner, 17,000 miles,
6,250.
07949 776824.

MUST BE SEEN
TOYOTA AVENSIS
05, diesel, 75,000 miles, immaculate,
£1,950 ono.
0121 422 1601.



VW POLO 1.2 S
3Dr hatch, 2003, one lady owner, 53,300 miles, 13 stamp full service history, last serviced at 52,521 miles, PAS, EW, alarmed, AC, immaculate condition, must be seen.
£1,695
07960 995748.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD FOCUS ESTATE ZETEC
1600cc, petrol, Y Reg., 87k miles, MoT end November, dark red, good condition.
£600.
01543 505292.

THIS COULD BE YOURS

FORD KA
1300CC

2000, hatchback, bronze, approx 26,400 miles, well kept, always garaged, serviced regularly, lady owner, six months MoT.
£450.

Telephone 01922 710651.



HYUNDAI COUPE

2004.2000cc, Red. 7 mths MoT. New clutch kit, new brake pads, Bosch wiper blades. All electrics windows, sun roof etc. Good runner, reliable. No tax.

Genuine callers only.
£1,350 ono.

01543 469045/ 07523 732092.



PEUGEOT 206CC 1.6

2006, 59k miles, air con, recent water pump/cam belt, MoT Nov, good service history, brakes very good, tyres 5mm all round, fantastic car.
£1,370.
07969 969377.

SUPER BARGAIN

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6
05 reg, 5dr, 12 months MoT, 79,000 miles, silver, two key cards, alloys, some service history, good condition, for year.
£650 ono.
07976 293994.

motorbikes

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
CBT to full licence. Call Sam - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED OLD CLASSIC CAR

Triumph / MG / Jaguar / Porsche etc anything interesting, as project / investment, condition not important.

Please telephone Ron

07424 399776.

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & Repairs. Headlights, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

vehicle hire

W.T.R. VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups. Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

DALLAS
Van hire ..
Wide variety of vans:
Small Large Lutons
Tippers Flats Drop sides
Crew Refrigerated Minibus

Vans Starting from £35

13A, Woden Road West, Wednesbury, WS10 7SF
www.dallas-hire.co.uk Tel: 0121 647 7112

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg
on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

LEONARD ARTHUR BRANT (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-named deceased, late of Waters Edge Care Home Stafford Road Great Witley Walsall Staffordshire WS6 6BA and previously of 18 Pitsea Lane Blonson Walsall West Midlands WS3 3DH, who died on 27/10/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ASHLEY SHAW & KEPP SOLICITORS
18 Carter Street Uttoxeter Staffordshire ST14 8EU
T497240

MEET SEXY local women, genuine adult contacts, fast & discreet. Call 0530 022 6244/07006 026348.

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darvall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.
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Mascots turned out for the annual Mascot Assault Course



Stourbridge and West Bromwich Albion Legends teams line-up for kick off on Sunday, alongside the matchday mascots



Albion's Darren "Big Dave" Moore chatting with fans at half-time



The Mayor of Dudley, Mohammed Hanif, showed his support

Victory in bag for Albion but hospice the winner

A CHARITY football match between Stourbridge Old Boys & West Bromwich Albion Legends has raised more than £20,000 for the Mary Stevens Hospice, which provides 24-hour care for families battling the impact of life-limiting illnesses.

The game was played at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground, at Amblecote, in front of a capacity crowd as the teams competed for the Jane Webb Memorial Trophy, named in remembrance of the local woman who provides the motivation for the game each year. The day also included a huge family fun day, a sporting auction, and the opportunity for local children to have an once-in-a-lifetime matchday experience, as mascots, ball-children or flag-bearers.

Crowds were also treated to a mascot assault course sponsored by Midcalf Nicholls, with characters from the likes of West Bromwich Albion's Baggie Bird and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Wolfe joining those from Toys 'R' Us, The Tenth Lock and Mommy's Mascots in a chaotic obstacle course, which saw Baggie Bird steal an unlikely, late victory.

Amazed

After raising £15,000 in its debut year in 2016, event co-founders Matt Webb and Mark Naylor had hoped they would beat last year's sum but confessed that they found themselves "absolutely amazed" by the support the day received this year from supporters, players and volunteers.

In total, more than 40 players took part in the day, including 15 former-pros such as former Baggies skipper Darren "Big Dave" Moore, Richard Sneekes, Bob Taylor, Nigel Quashie, Geoff Horsfield and Des Lyttle.

Moore has now captained the Albion side for two years in a row, and delighted fans by playing in goal for 15 minutes at the end of the second half, before running the length of the pitch to take and score a penalty.

Fans witnessed 10 goals on the day with Albion

SPORTING FEATURE

By Dan Malin

A lot of the lads have already signed up to be there next year, so we're confident of retaining our title and can't wait to do it all again!

running out 6-4 winners in a hotly-contested match under the sweltering April sun, with fans taking to Facebook and Twitter afterwards to comment how much they'd enjoyed the day.

Charity, of course, was the big winner.

The Mayor of Dudley, Mohammed Hanif, was also on hand to meet the children involved in the day and to chat to players before kick-off, alongside the Hospice CEO, captain Stevan Jackson.

Matt Webb, Stourbridge Legends captain and event co-founder said: "It really is just sinking in."

"When you look around, and all you can see is just thousands of families enjoying the day it brings it all home. Honestly, there's no feeling like it."

He added: "I can't tell everyone involved how grateful I am for making the day possible, and thank you so much to the thousands of people who came along and supported the match, I hope they all enjoyed it and we can't wait to go again. We've got a trophy to win back!"

Mark Naylor, West Bromwich Albion Legends manager and event co-founder said: "I don't think I've ever experienced anything like that."

"To have such overwhelming support from the local community, the clubs, the charities and everyone else involved was absolutely incredible and the end result of all of that hard work was a day that we'll never forget."

"A lot of the lads have already signed up to be there next year, so we're confident of retaining our title and

can't wait to do it all again!" Amanda Bowen, deputy fundraising and lottery manager said: "Matt and Mark simply can't be praised highly enough for what they've done."

"It's not just the fact that they've paid for so many families to receive our care when they need it most, it's the day they create for the community."

"They bring people together to simply enjoy being together as a family and watch absolute superstars roll back the years."

"The work that has gone into this event has been absolutely huge, and to see it all come together in the way it did was just so special."

She added: "So we'd like to say thank you to the supporters who turned up in their thousands, the volunteers who make days like this possible, the staff who have worked so hard, West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge for being so, so supportive of the event and, maybe most importantly, Jane Webb for raising such an incredibly kind-hearted man. She also took care of the weather, which was more than we could ever have asked."

Memorabilia

After the game, a sporting auction and post-match party took place in the Stourbridge FC club house, with signed and match-worn memorabilia donated by a plethora of first-team West Bromwich Albion stars including Ben Foster, Gareth McAuley, James Morrison, Chris Brunt and the recently-departed Jonas Olsson.

In the midst of everything going on, on the day, the thousands in attendance also perfectly observed a minute's silence before kick-off, to pay their respects to the Wilkinson family whose devastating loss has shocked the town this week.

All involved in the organisation of this event would like those affected to know that their hearts and thoughts are with them at "this impossibly difficult time".

To find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

● Images and videos from the day are available to view on the hospice Facebook page: www.facebook.com/marystevenshospice

Testing time for Josh as new season starts

TEENAGE race ace Josh Hiatt enjoyed his first proper run out on his new KTM bike during an official test day at Mallory Park.

The Cannock starlet, just 14, has made the step up from the Mextrakit series to compete in this year's KTM Cup, which supports the British Superbike series.

Hiatt will be one of the youngest riders on the grid this season, which began last weekend. He was working hard on his fitness behind the scenes ahead of the campaign getting under way.

Father Nigel said: "Josh met all the riders from the championship and he also got in lots of track time too, which was good. I think Josh will be one of the youngest riders on the grid because with the changes some of them will be 22-years-old this year."

Nigel said testing went well at Mallory Park, with the bike working and his son getting quicker every time he went out.

"It was encouraging because it's a much bigger bike than the one he's used to riding," he said. "But he's still enjoying it every time he goes out. He seems to find riding a two-stroke rather than a four-stroke."

"He's getting more and more confident on it."

Erin runs and swims to top five position

A DUDLEY schoolgirl has become one of the top five biathletes in the country. Erin Maher was one of three pupils from Maidensbridge Primary in Wall Heath who travelled to London's Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships.

And after shattering a number of personal bests on the track and in the pool, the Year 6 pupil secured an impressive fifth place overall in the under-11s girls' category.

Erin, Amie Parker and Jamie Hiscox, who all attend the Beachcroft Road school, qualified for the championships through their performances in two qualifying events in October and November last year.

Modern Biathlon involves an 800m run followed by a 50m swim. Each performance is awarded points and then combined to produce final standings.

Amie's hopes of similar success were dashed by an ankle injury in the 800m, while Jamie finished 78th out of 165 in the under-11 boys' category. Dean Nolan, deputy headteacher at Maidensbridge Primary, said: "We are very proud of what these children have achieved."

Erin is also the current Dudley Schools' cross-country champion.

Quiet Men Gethin has big shout at title

IT'S been a whirlwind three months for Walsall boxer Martin Gethin – from the clutches of retirement to competing for the WBO Inter-Continental title and winning an IBF International belt in-between.

'The Quiet Man' defeated Liam Richards in front of a few hundred fans at Walsall Town Hall back in November in what was supposed to be his farewell fight in his hometown.

Just days later he got the call to travel to London for the IBF International super lightweight title at Wembley Arena and overcame John Wayne Hibbert with fourth round knockout.

That victory has now landed Gethin a shot at the WBO Inter-Continental Super Lightweight title against the highly-rated 23-year-old Jack Catterall at the Manchester Arena on Saturday, a bout broadcast live on Boxnation and BT Sport.

Also on the card, Terry Flanagan defends his WBO lightweight title while super welterweight rivals, Liam Smith and Liam Williams, go toe-to-toe.

Double Olympic gold medallist Nicola Adams will make her pro bow, alongside fellow debutant and amateur stand-out Daniel Dubois.



Pics put to the sword by Gladiators

Matlock Town 2 Rushall Olympic 1
THE Gladiators came from a goal down to hand defeat to Pics.

Despite a strong start by the hosts, Pics went ahead on 24 minutes. Some positive play on the left by Isaac Cooper ended with him feeding Danico Johnson, who turned well before slotting home.

After Matlock's Marcus Dinanga went close, he then turned provider for the equaliser on 64 minutes as his effort was parried by Jose Veiga into the path of Niall McManus, who made no mistake.

The winner came with five minutes to go as the Pics failed to clear their lines and, as the ball came back in, Dwayne Wiley was on hand to plant a header home.

Rushall have expanded their Youth Development Programme by joining forces with the Bryan Small Football Academy to set up a Saturday Youth Academy for five-to-nine-year-olds.

Sessions are open to boys and girls of mixed ability and overseen by experienced FA and UEFA qualified coaches.

The sessions get under way on Saturday, May 6 and will take place each week on the state-of-the-art 3G pitches at Sheffield Academy. The cost is £5 per week on a pay-as-you-play basis or £15 for a four-week block booking (payment by cash/cheque or PayPal in advance).

Sessions take place between 9.15am and 10.15am for five and six-year-olds and 10.30am and 11.30am for seven, eight and nine-year-olds.

To book a place, email bryansmallacademy@gmail.com or text 'Saturday Morning' plus your child's name and age to 07923 251 502.

New players are being sought for Rushall Olympic's under-13s team for next season. Call manager Scott Cooksey 07958-043 574 for further details.

Huge game ahead for Wood in battle to avoid the drop

Walsall Wood 1 Highgate United 4
THE visitors eased their own relegation fears, but dropped Wood right in it.

The hosts were unable to come back from a 15-minute opening spell that saw them trail 3-0 and they are just four points clear of the drop zone with six games left.

Highgate took the lead through 17-year-old Romario Martin with only six minutes gone. Skipper Josh Hawker headed home a second on nine minutes and then made it three on the quarter-hour before Wood managed to grab a lifeline through Josh Mansell on 26 minutes.

The game was sewn up before half-time, however, as Hawker set up Martin to score his second.

Wood kept chasing shadows as the visitors gave them the run-around. But the defence held out for the second period, thanks in no small part to the brilliant performance of Adam Jenkins in the Wood goal.

Saturday's game against Long Eaton United is now massively important in the fight for survival.

Trio show Adrenaline to lift titles



Zachary Owens, Oliver Partridge, Keri Webster

THE latest kickboxing champions have rolled off the production line at a Brownhills gym.

Zachary Owens, aged 18, powered his way to the World Kickboxing Union (WKU) world crown, while Ashley Balram became an area champion at the 'Hammer Time' show at Hammerwich Cricket Club. Keri Webster collected a world crown, while Kayleigh Goodwin beat Welsh opponent Jasmine Evans to become Celtic champion and Oliver Partridge, just 11-years-old, collected his second English title.

All are members of Adrenaline gym, which has been in operation for just two years. Zachary's brother Owen, who now represents a gym in

Kickboxing

Kent, was crowned British K1 champion. There were victories on the night for Kyria Williams, Naomi Powis and Carl Port, while success followed at the KWON Grand Slam in Solihull, with Williams and Casey Smith striking gold. Smith and Liam Mason also returned with silvers.

Instructor Chris Bladen, a former world champion, said: "They all work really hard and they deserve their success."

Jack Wiles, holder of an ISKA British title is also on the Adrenaline books. Call 07976 371681.

CANDLIN IS A BRIGHT SPARK

WALSALL boss Jon Whitney could give more youngsters the chance to shine this season after handing a surprise debut to striker Mitch Candlin.

The forward, who is a first-year scholar, was named on the substitutes' bench alongside winger Tobias Hayles-Docherty for the Saddlers' trip to Bradford on Saturday.

Whitney's men ultimately slipped to a 1-0 defeat during the keenly-contested clash in Yorkshire, forward Billy Clarke notching the only goal in the 58th minute.

But Candlin impressed in a brief substitute appearance - with Whitney confirming more promising teenagers could feature this year.

The call-up came after Candlin netted twice in a 4-3 win for Saddlers over Wolverhampton Casuals in the Walsall Senior Cup semi-final. Liam Kinsella and Jordan Sangha were also on the mark.

Reward

Whitney said: "If they are good enough, if they prove themselves and if we feel they are ready they will get a chance. It's a reward for how well they have done and I have always said age is nothing to me."

"If you are good enough and you can prove yourself with the under-23s, you will have a chance. Our kids are our future."

"It was great for me to be able to put Mitch on. If you look at him, he is a real physical presence. He is a threat and he is something we haven't got. You can see what type of player he will turn into. A target man. And you have also got Tobias who has got raw pace. It would have been nice to be in a position where we could have put him on."

Whitney hopes other youngsters will now believe they can force their way into the first-team. "Opportunities arise in football," the boss added. "Cameron Peters has done really well in the development team and he probably would have got his chance at Bradford."

"But he picked up a niggles and suddenly Mitch is the next in line. That is why you have to make sure you train right and you are ready."



Saddlers players look on as Billy Clarke notches the only goal of the game at Valley Parade

Juggernaut rolls on at Villa's expense

Bromsgrove 10 Pelsall Villa 0
PELSALL Villa became the latest team to crumble under the weight of Bromsgrove Sporting's unbeaten stroll to the league title in a stark reminder that money talks even at this tier of the football pyramid!

The Villains succumbed to one of their worst ever defeats in a 10-0 loss at The Victoria

Ground but this isn't a hard luck story, it's a hard facts tale.

The Rouslers took the lead after 20 minutes but Villa should have scored at least twice before shipping a second goal just on half time.

The gulf between the clubs was shown once Villa tired in the second half, the first of two penalties starting a 10-minute

spell which bought four goals. But the reality is, Bromsgrove can call on the backing that suggests they would not be out of place many leagues higher, so this was always going to be a game where comparison rather than expectation was the objective for Pelsall.

Villa entertain Bolehall Swifts on Saturday.

No mercy as Bloxwich run up 74 points

Walsall 23 Veseyans 13

WALSALL finished their home league programme with a hard-fought victory.

The scoring was opened by two 40m penalties, kicked by Roger Weston for the hosts and Harry Griffiths for Veseyans. Ethan Walker scored a spectacular try, converted by Weston before Griffiths kicked from 30m. Walsall led 13-6 at the break with a 25m kick from Weston.

Another Weston kick was followed by a converted Walker try.

The visitors gained a consolation during the closing minutes, Will Slattery's effort converted by Griffiths.

The United's 57-19 victory over Bridgnorth 2nds virtually assures them a top three Reserve League position. Tony Lay scored three tries. Brandon Sacey and Dominic Wiecezorek two each and Dave Merlin one. Mitch Carless kicked a penalty and seven conversions.

The 3rd XV lost 40-7 to a strong Aldridge team.

Bloxwich 74 Five Ways Old Eds 7
AN understrength Five Ways travelled to King George's, and were shown no mercy by a ruthless Bloxwich.

Skipper Richard Geary led the way with the first score, converted by Sean Bottomer. A converted Lewis Lowe try made it 14-0. Jack Hunt placed down the third, again converted.

Three further tries were added before half-time, all converted, with both Geary and Lowe doubling their tally, and Dean Bottomer also scoring to make it 38-0.

No mercy was shown after the break as Brad Russell went over, Sean Bottomer adding the extras. Five Ways pulled one back, but Bloxwich added a further five tries, Hunt completing his hat-trick, Martin Maclean grabbed a brace and Leon Hodgkiss also crossed.

Bloxwich 2nd XV beat Willenhall 22-12 to do the double.

Sporting chance to end leaders' run

WOLVERHAMPTON Sporting boss Andy Paddock was expecting a tough test in a top of the table West Midlands League clash against leaders Haughmond on Tuesday night.

Haughmond had won 20 games in a row before the Pride Park clash, but Paddock was hoping his players could preserve their own record at home, where they have not been beaten all season.

Sporting were going into the game on the back of a 4-2 win over Gornal Athletic. Stuart Hillman, one of four strikers signed to replace Dan Westwood, was among the scorers on his debut.

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